British government raises country's coronavirus threat level. **News, Page 4**

Return to glory

Group of residents wants to put Simsbury rink back on the map. **Connecticut, Page 1**

A Giant mess

Hapless Giants fall to high-powered Chargers 37-21. **Sports, Page 1**

Turning milder



Sunny and breezy; high of 52.



VOLUME CLXXXV COURANT.COM MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2021

CORONAVIRUS IN SCHOOLS

Ellington board objects to mask rule

New state guidelines will require unvaccinated student athletes to wear them during competition

By Daniela Altimari Hartford Courant

The Ellington board of education is objecting to state guidelines that will require unvaccinated high school athletes to wear masks during sporting competitions, saying the rule creates a two-tiered system that violates

student privacy and could stigmatize those who forgo inoculations.

"Any well-intentioned public health policy, guidance or legislation currently under consideration ... that would make a visible difference between students from K-12 based on any characteristics is a reversion to the stigmatizing practices of the past," the board

wrote in a letter sent Friday to Dr. Manitha Juthani, the state's public health commissioner.

Requiring a student to wear a mask, a symbol of their vaccination status, could create compliance issues with the Federal Education Records Protection Act, the board said. "The only way that a school can know of a student's lack of vaccination and the reasons for it are through the receipt of student records from the family," the letter states. "Taking that infor-

mation and publicly identifying the student by requiring a visible marker may be in direct violation of [the federal act]."

of [the federal act]."
Masking and vaccination requirements in public schools have become one of the most divisive and partisan issues of the pandemic. Public health officials say COVID-19 vaccinations are the best way to stop the spread of the virus and protect the community. But critics have framed the vaccination debate as a matter

of parents' rights in the face of government intrusion.

Jennifer Dzen, the Republican chairwoman of the Ellington board of education, said the panel is not opposed to vaccines. More than 72% of children between 12 and 17 in Ellington have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and the school system held vaccine clinics for students and staff.

"We've been following all of

Turn to Masks, Page 2



People embrace in front of debris on Sunday after a tornado touched down Friday in Mayfield, Kentucky. Dozens of devastating tornadoes roared through five states overnight in what President Joe Biden said was "one of the largest" storm outbreaks in history. **BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/GETTY-AFP**

Tornadoes leave trail of death, grief

Eight factory workers dead, eight missing in Ky., company says

By Bruce Schreiner and Dylan Lovan
Associated Press

MAYFIELD, Ky. — Workers on the night shift at Mayfield Consumer Products were in the middle of the holiday rush, cranking out candles, when a tornado closed in on the factory and the word went out: "Duck and cover."

Autumn Kirks pulled down her safety goggles and took shelter, tossing aside wax and fragrance buckets to make room. She glanced away from her boyfriend, Lannis Ward, and when she looked back, he was gone.

Gov. Andy Beshear initially said Saturday that only 40 of the 110 people working in the factory at the time were rescued, and that "it'll be a miracle if anybody else is found alive in it"

else is found alive in it."

But Sunday, the candle company said that while eight were confirmed dead and eight remained miss-

ing, more than 90 others had been located.

Dozens of people in several Kentucky counties are

Turn to Tornadoes, Page 3



William Richards sits near his son's tornado-damaged home Sunday in Mayfield, Ky., as families pass out food to residents. **BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/GETTY-AFP**

Standing with two donated sewing machines, Hartford Stitch owner Laura Kasowitz has organized an effort to provide sewing machines, fabric, scissors and other sewing tools to refugees from Afghanistan settling in the Hartford area. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

'They came with nothing'

A community rallies to give sewing machines to Afghan refugees

By Daniela Altimari Hartford Courant

The 370 Afghan refugees who have settled in Connecticut over the last nine weeks have many needs, from arranging transportation to securing basic household items such as vacuum cleaners and microwave ovens. But for the women who came to the U.S. after the Taliban took over, one of the most urgent requests is for sewing machines and fabric so they can create the modest tunics they

prefer to wear.
"Among othe

"Among other challenges they're facing, they can't find clothes they are comfortable wearing here," said Laura Kasowitz, who owns Hartford Stitch, a sewing school in West Hartford. "But they can sew them."

Kasowitz and a group of volunteers helping the refugees resettle in central Connecticut are collecting sewing machines, fabric, scissors, needles, thread and other sewing tools.

"I put out a request to my community and within two days I had six to eight sewing machines pledged," Kasowitz said. "The sewing community is really generous."

Turn to Sewing, Page 2

Fire depts. short on help

Volunteer numbers are sharply down across state, nation

By Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

With about 40 fewer members than it would like, the Wethersfield Fire Department is an utterly different situation than during the many years it had more volunteers than it could handle.

"When I first got in, there was a waiting list of about about 30 people," recalled Capt. Mark Console. "We were capped at 100, and we always had a 100 with more waiting."

But like volunteer fire departments across the state and around the country, Wethersfield's membership roster is down—and the department must work harder than ever at recruitment to keep from losing more ground.

"Eighty percent of all fire personnel in Connecticut are volunteers, and the majority of fire departments throughout the state are experiencing a volunteer shortage," the Rocky Hill Fire Department reported.

Volunteer numbers for many towns dwindled over the past 20 years or more, and fire commanders now routinely organize recruitment fairs or post "volunteers wanted" signs that stay outside their firehouses year round.

Chiefs report that 2021 is tougher than ever, though, and many are turning to social media to drum up more interest.

"Did you know Connecticut has more than 300 fire departments staffed by over 26,000 firefighters, 83 percent of whom are volunteers and are professionally trained?" the Southington Fire Department asked in a recruitment posting on Facebook last month.

Turn to Fire, Page 3

Local theaters rethink how they use paper programs

Everyone is wearing masks and listening to fresh announcements about COVID-19 guidelines, but there's another change in Connecticut theaters: offering fewer and smaller playbills.

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Hartford Courant

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Masks

from Page 1

the guidelines," Dzen said. She noted that Ellington school returned to in-person instruction in October of 2020, far earlier than some other Connecticut school districts.

"We're not looking to go against the guidelines now," she said. "But what we're saying is don't segregate the children based on their medical status."

Publicly identifying the unvaccinated could leave them open to ridicule and harassment, Elington school officials said. The letter cites instances of students and families being excluded from social situations because they did not receive the vaccine. "We are concerned such a visible distinction could deepen divides within the community and spill over into the schools," the letter states.

The public health department, along with the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference, the governing body for high school sports, issued guidelines last month for winter interscholastic competitions. The policy states that vaccinated athletes do not have to wear masks while playing sports after Dec. 23.

Masks will be required whenever the athletes aren't



Bloomfield High School athletes listen to speakers during a news conference in August in which the CIAC encouraged high school students to get vaccinated against COVID-19. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

competing, as well as on bus trips. Unvaccinated athletes must wear masks while competing and all other times, and the DPH stated that unmasked athletes not fully vaccinated should not participate in indoor events "unless all other mitigation strategies can be reliably

and consistently implemented."

Max Reiss, a spokesman for Gov. Ned Lamont, said the decision in vaccinations was made collaboratively between public health officials, coaches, athletic directors, school administrators and the CIAC.

The policy aimed to ensure "as many kids [are] on the court, on the paying field, on the ice as possible," Reiss said. "We want kids in school, and we want kids participating in athletic activities because we know that these are some of the strongest relationships and

strongest learning experiences that these children are going to have."

But school board members in Ellington said the policy will divide

"I don't think any child should be separated out or distinguished based on their

parents' decision, religious beliefs, what race they are or color," Kerry Socha, a Republican member of the board, said during a board meeting Thursday night to discuss the policy.

"I don't care what your political affiliation is," Socha said. "Think about that kid that's on that basketball court ... that is told 'you can play, but you need to wear this. How could it be more of a scarlet letter?

Democrat Gary Blanchette said he'd like to "rip the masks off everybody," but because the virus remains a threat, precautions are appropriate. "But if the public health department wants to protect kids, they should be having everybody wear a mask," he said. "Even the people that are vaccinated can carry this virus and spread it."

Blanchette is one of two Democrats who endorsed the letter; the other is board secretary Jennifer Mullin. Two other Democrats -Elizabeth Nord and Miriam Underwood — did not sign. Socha said the decision

to vaccinate is a deeply personal one that should be left up to parents.

"Parents love their children and they're going to make the best decision for their family," she said. "It's really not for the government or anyone else to judge."

Sewing

from Page 1

Adrian Brown, a volunteer from West Hartford helping the refugees, put out a call for fabric on a local "Buy Nothing" Facebook group, where people give and receive items they no longer need.

She got dozens of responses, with people offering thread, sewing machines, fabric and irons. "People want to help," Brown said. The owners of Affordable Fabrics, a retailer in Rocky Hill, also pledged to donate material for the

"Any time you can help refugees do the things that they used to do, were comfortable doing and have great expertise doing, it is a real plus for their adjustment to a new country."

Chris George, executive director of Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services

women to use.

Chris George, executive director of Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services, a resettlement agency with offices in New Haven and Hartford, said providing Afghan women with the tools to make their own clothes is essential.

"Any time you can help

refugees do the things that they used to do, were comfortable doing and have great expertise doing, it is a real plus for their adjustment to a new country,"

George said. "There isn't a refugee in the world who was going to be able to flee their country with a sewing machine under their arm," George

Thousands of Afghans fled their country when the Taliban abruptly seized power over the summer. They began arriving in Connecticut in September.

The 370 individuals who have been resettled in the state so far represents a huge spike, George said.

Three hundred and seventy would be a huge number for a 12 month period. We've done it in a little over two months," he

George expects another 200 to 300 Afghan refugees to arrive in the state by the end of the year.

Religious organizations and community groups are supporting about 50 families, providing them with everything from child car booster seats to transportation to medical appointments. The rest are being aided by volunteers such as Brown.

Brown said she is relying on the refugees to tell her what they need "and they

have a lot of need right now." Some resettlement groups have held clothing drives, but many of the women arriving from Afghanistan are used to making their own clothes. They prefer modest, knee-length tunic

made from cotton fabric.

"They can't find those at Target," Brown said. Sewing can also be ther-

apeutic. "They're disconnected from their families and they're worried," she said.

"And so many aspects of our

life here are completely new to them. "They're all survivors and they're resilient. They're good at asking for what they want, and what they

machines." To donate a working sewing machine, fabric or sewing tools, please contact Adrian Brown at drnbrwn@aol.com.

want right now are sewing

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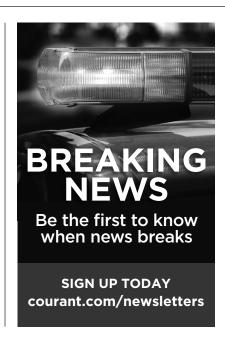
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LOTTERY

Sunday, Dec. 12

PLAY3 DAY PLAY4 DAY 0 2 8 ws: 6 5 4 3 0 ws: 7

The late numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery

SATURDAY'S LATE NUMBERS **PLAY3 NIGHT**

PLAY4 NIGHT 7 8 7 ws: 3 5725**ws**:6

CASH 5

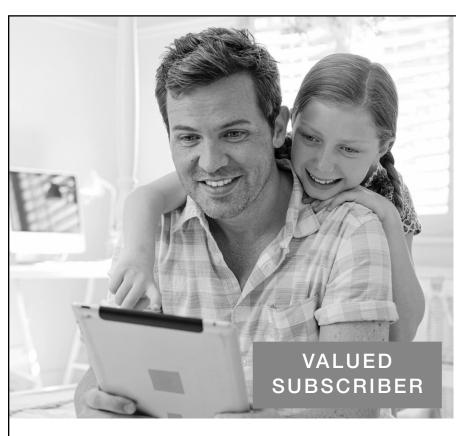
6 7 16 24 35 **LUCKY FOR LIFE**

\$148 million

8 9 16 31 44 LB: 17 **POWERBALL**

3 25 44 53 64 PB: 10 PP: 2 Tuesday's est. Lotto jackpot: \$2.5 million Tuesdav's est. Mega Millions jackpot:

Wednesday's est. Powerball jackpot: \$320 million



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FROM PAGE ONE

Tornadoes

from Page 1

still believed to have died in the storms, but Beshear, after saying Sunday morning the state's toll could exceed 100, said that afternoon it might be as low as 50.

"We are praying that maybe original estimates of those we have lost were wrong. If so, it's going to be pretty wonderful," the governor said.

Kentucky was the worsthit state by far in an unusual mid-December swarm of twisters across the Midwest and the South that leveled entire communities and left at least 14 people dead in four other states.

Forty people who were inside the candle factory were pulled out soon after the twister struck, authorities said. The number of people who had been in the factory was initially put at 110. Rescuers had to crawl over the dead to get to the living at a disaster scene that smelled of scented candles.

But by the time churchgoers gathered Sunday morning to pray for the lost, more than 24 hours had elapsed since anyone had been found alive. Instead, crews recovered pieces of peoples' lives — a backpack, a pair of shoes and a cellphone with 27 missed messages were among the items.

Layers of steel and cars 15 feet deep were on top of what used to the factory roof, the governor said.

We're going to grieve together, we're going to dig out and clean up together, and we will rebuild and move forward together. We're going to get through this," Beshear said. "We're going to get through this together, because that is what we do."

Four twisters hit the state in all, including one with an extraordinarily long path of about 200 miles, authorities

The outbreak was all the more remarkable because it came at a time of year when cold weather normally limits tornadoes.

Eleven people were reported killed in and around Bowling Green

"I've got towns that are gone, that are just, I mean gone. My dad's hometown half of it isn't standing," Beshear said of Dawson Springs.

He said that going door to door in search of victims is out of the question in the hardest-hit areas: "There are no doors."

"We're going to have over 1,000 homes that are gone, just gone," the governor said. With afternoon high

temperatures forecast only in the 40s, tens of thou-



Ronald Hayes sits in a shelter in Wingo, Ky., on Sunday after his home was destroyed by a tornado that tore through the town Friday evening. ROBERT BUMSTED/AP



James Strickland prepares breakfast on the porch of his father's home, which was destroyed when a tornado ripped through town Friday eveningin Mayfield. SCOTT OLSON/GETTY

sands of people were with-

out power. About 300 National Guard members went house to house, checking on people and helping to remove debris. Cadaver dogs

searched for victims. Kirks said she and her boyfriend were about 10 feet apart in a hallway when someone said to take cover. Suddenly, she saw sky and lightning where a wall had been, and Ward had

vanished. "I remember taking my eyes off of him for a second, and then he was gone. I don't know where he went, don't

have any idea," she said. Kirks was at a ministry center where people gathered to seek information

about the missing. Later, she got the terrible news — that Ward had been killed in the storm.

"It was indescribable," Pastor Joel Cauley said of the disaster scene. "It was almost like you were in a twilight zone. You could smell the aroma of candles, and you could hear the cries of people for help. Candle

smells and all the sirens is not something I ever expected to experience at the same time."

The outbreak also killed at least six people in Illinois, where an Amazon distribution center in Edwardsville was hit; four in Tennessee; two in Arkansas, where a nursing home was destroyed and the governor said workers shielded residents with their own bodies; and two in Missouri.

Debris from destroyed buildings and shredded trees covered the ground in Mayfield, a city of about 10,000 in western Kentucky.

Twisted sheet metal, downed power lines and wrecked vehicles lined the streets. Windows were blown out and roofs torn off the buildings that were still standing.

In the shadows of their crumpled church sanctuaries, two congregations in Mayfield came together Sunday to pray for those who were lost.

Members of First Christian Church and First Presbyterian Church met in a parking lot surrounded by rubble, piles of broken bricks and metal.

'Our little town will never be the same, but we're resilient," Laura McClendon said. "We'll get there, but it's going to take a long time."

Fire

from Page 1

"Volunteer firefighters save their communities millions of dollars every year. The majority of fire departments throughout Connecticut, including here in Southington are experiencing a volunteer shortage," the post read before offering a link to an application page.

Exactly what's making the situation worse isn't clear. Deputy Chief Scott Fine of the South Windsor Volunteer Fire Department suspects the pandemic discouraged some prospective volunteers.

"It certainly plays a role as a lot of people don't want to be involved in emergency services and possibly exposed to COVID," Fine said Thursday. "But it's also because people are working two jobs, they're handling the demands of family life — and this is a different generation."

Fine became a fire Explorer at 14, and is still a member of the department 30 years later. As is common in firefighting, his father, too, was a firefighter, and that's part of what got him involved.

"It's generational, but for some reason we're not seeing that as much

anymore," he said. Canton's volunteer fire and emergency medical services department has kept membership fairly steady at about 60, but the pandemic has hurt its efforts to introduce young people as

"Before COVID we had a



Eighty-three percent of firefighters at Connecticut's 300 fire departments are volunteers. The Wethersfield Fire Department is short by 40 volunteers, and most other towns are also experiencing shortages. WETHERSFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

very active cadet program for age 14 and above. It was an unbelievable resource the majority of our current officers started as cadets,' said Sylvia Cancela, public information officer for the department. "COVID kind of stopped it — we're looking forward to beginning that again, hopefully." South Windsor, too, has lost ground with its Explor-

"Ten years ago we had 25; currently we're down to eight," Fine said.

Console doesn't think the pandemic has hurt recruiting, but suspects the faster

pace of day-to-day life has. "It's my opinion that people are just going in so many different directions now. And you have to put in quite a bit of time to get your Firefighter 1 (certification), which we like all our people to start with," Console said.

In recent years some communities have begun paying small stipends for each call a firefighter goes out on. Others offer tax abatements or other incentives.

Shortages, however, have gotten worse, especially during daytime hours when

volunteers are out of town at work. During the era of abun-

dant volunteers, Connecticut had many major employers with enormous workforces — and a willingness to let a few take paid time to answer emergency calls, or to skip work the morning after handling an extended, particularly difficult fire. But that ended with thinner payrolls and a bigger emphasis on financial results.

So far, there is no sign that the work-from-home trend of the pandemic has drawn more people to consider volunteering, but chiefs remain hopeful. In the meantime, some volunteer departments continue paying a small crew to cover the town during weekday work hours, the shifts where shortages hit hardest.

Even though the prime need at most departments is for fully trained front-line firefighters, they also want to hear from people who can't or won't do that. Volunteers who handle administrative or other non-emergency work at least take some pressure off the others, chiefs

"We have a fire police contingent, we have people who go into elementary schools and senior housing complexes with our fire safety education program," Fine said. "This is your opportunity to give back to the community, to be a team, to commit to something you never thought you'd be able to do."

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WORLD NATION

Dems back Biden, but mull options

Talks about possible alternatives start less than a year into term

By Jonathan Martin and Alexander Burns The New York Times

NEW ORLEANS -Addressing reporters at a meeting of the Democratic Governors Association, Gov. Roy Cooper of North Carolina gave an emphatic answer when asked whether he expected President Joe Biden to seek a second term and whether he believed that was in the best interests of his party.

"I do, and I do," Cooper said Friday.

Three minutes later, Cooper — the only Democratic governor to twice win a state that former President Donald Trump carried on the same ballot — was sketching out what could be the makings of a Cooper for President message to primary voters.

He trumpeted his repeal of his state's so-called bathroom bill targeting transgender people, an executive order granting paid parental leave to state employees and another order putting North Carolina on a path to carbon neutrality by 2050.

"That's why Democratic governors are so important," he said, alluding to next year's midterm elections.

Publicly, Cooper and other Democratic leaders are focused on what will be a difficult 2022 if Biden's popularity does not pick up. However, it is 2024 that's increasingly on the minds of a long roster of ambitious Democrats and their advis-

With Biden facing plunging poll numbers and turn-



President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden return to the White House on Sunday. KENNY HOLSTON/THE NEW YORK TIMES

ing 82 the month he'd be on the ballot, and Vice President Kamala Harris plagued by flagging poll numbers of her own, conversations about possible alternatives are beginning far earlier than is customary for a president still in the first year of his first term.

None of the prospects would dare openly indicate interest, for fear of offending both a president who, White House officials say, has made it clear to them that he plans to run for reelection and a history-making vice president who could be his heir apparent.

No president since Lyndon Johnson in 1968 has opted not to run for reelec-

Still, a nexus of anxious currents in the Democratic Party has stoked speculation about a possible contested primary in two years. On top of concerns about Biden's age and present unpopularity, there is an overarching fear among Democrats of the possibility of a Donald Trump comeback — and a determination that the party must run a strong candidate to head it off.

Should Biden change his mind and bow out of 2024, there is no consensus among Democrats about who the best alternative might be.

The list of potential candidates starts with Harris and includes the high-profile

transportation secretary, Pete Buttigieg – the two candidates most discussed in Washington — as well as a collection of former presidential candidates like Sens. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut said that if such a race unfolded, it would be "a real mud fight in the good old-fashioned sense of Democratic fights." If there "ever were rules" in presidential nominating contests, he added, "they no longer hold."

Two Democrats who ran for president in the last election said they fully anticipated Biden would run again, but they notably did

not rule out running them-

selves if he declined to do so. "He's running, I expect to support him and help him get reelected," Warren said. "I'm sticking with that story."

Klobuchar said of Biden: "He has said he's going to run again, and I take him at his word, and that's all I'm going to say."

A number of well-known party officials, Biden most notable among them, deferred to Hillary Clinton in 2016, leaving a sizable opening in the field that was filled by Sen. Bernie Sanders. The surprising strength of Sanders' candidacy and Clinton's loss to Trump upended assumptions about what was possible in today's politics and soured many in the party on coronations.

Similarly, the meteoric rise of Buttigieg in the 2020 primary has emboldened aspiring Democrats, who took the prominence of an under-40 mayor of a small city — South Bend, Indiana — as yet more evidence that voters have a broad imagination about who can serve as commander in chief.

Most delicate for Democrats are Harris' struggles and the question of whether she would be the most formidable post-Biden nominee. In a party that celebrates its diversity and relies on Black and female voters to win at every level of government, it would be difficult to challenge the first Black and first female vice president.

Yet recent history provides few examples of vice presidents who have claimed the White House without a strenuous nomination fight. The last two vice presidents to win the presidency, George H.W. Bush and Biden, faced tumultuous primary contests on their way to the White House.

There is little reason to expect a smoother path for Harris. Even Harris' allies are alarmed at the stream of stories about her difficulties and a recent staff exodus.

"Everything must change, from optics to policy to personnel," said Donna Brazile, a former Democratic National Committee chair who is close to Harris' advisers. "She's done a lot of good stuff, but no one talks about the achievements.

"If Biden announces that he will not run in 2024," she added, "it's open sesame."

Israeli PM Bennett makes a historic journey to UAE

Trip part of regional, diplomatic blitz on Iran nuclear talks

By Tia Goldenberg Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett on Sunday made a historic trip to the United Arab Emirates, the first visit by an Israeli premier, as part of a blitz of regional diplomacy against the backdrop of struggling nuclear talks

with Iran. Israel has watched with concern as Iran has pushed a hard line against negotiators meeting in Vienna, at once demanding sanctions relief while accelerating its nuclear program.

In recent weeks, Israel has dispatched its top diplomat and its defense and spy chiefs to meet allies in Europe, the U.S. and the Mideast to push for a firmer approach to Iran. The Israeli outreach has been accompanied by repeated threats to take military action against Iran if diplomacy fails.

Bennett's trip to Abu Dhabi, where he will meet Monday with Crown Prince Mohamed bin Zayed, is a milestone for both Israel and its new leader. Israel and the UAE last year

signed a normalization deal brokered by the Trump administration under the Abraham Accords, a series of diplomatic accords with Arab countries that also included Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco.

Israel and the UAE have long shared anxiety over Iran's nuclear program. The deal to establish ties between the countries only increased tensions with the Islamic Republic.

"I am very excited to be here, on the first official visit by an Israeli leader." Bennett said. "We look forward to strengthen the diplomatic relations between the coun-

Bennett's trip comes on the heels of a visit by the UAE's national security adviser, Sheikh Tahnoon bin Zayed Al Nahyan to Tehran, where he met with Iran's new hard-line president, Ebrahim Raisi, in a bid to ease tensions. It was a major visit for the Gulf Arab federation that has long viewed Iran as its main regional threat. Several other regional political visits, by Syria's foreign minister and the leaders of Saudi Arabia and Turkey, have also taken place recently, all with an eye on the negotiations.

Israel sees the UAE as

to its allies. Under Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahvan, Abu Dhabi's powerful crown prince and long the de facto ruler of the Emirates, the UAE has embarked on a rapid expansion of its military forces to counter what it sees as the threat posed by Iran. During the recent Dubai air show, Sheikh Mohammed visited the pavilion of Israel Aerospace Industries, Israel's largest state-owned defense contractor.

The Emirates also hosts U.S. and French forces and its Jebel Ali port is the U.S. Navy's busiest port of call outside of America.

The Vienna negotiations are working to revive the 2015 nuclear accord between Iran and six world powers. That agreement, launched by President Barack Obama, granted Iran relief from stifling sanctions in exchange for curbs on its

nuclear program. But three years later, President Donald Trump, with strong encouragement from then-Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, withdrew from the deal, causing it to unravel. Since then, the U.S. has reimposed sanctions and Iran has stepped up its nuclear activities amassing a stockpile of a crucial part of outreach highly enriched uranium



Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, right, and Interior Minister Ayelet Shaked arrive for a Cabinet meeting Sunday in Jerusalem before Bennett's departure. TSAFRIR ABAYOV/POOL GETTY-AFP

that goes well beyond the bounds of the accord.

Prominent voices in Israel, including a former defense minister and former intelligence head, are now indicating the U.S. withdrawal, especially without a contingency plan for Iran's continuously developing nuclear plan, was mishandled.

Talks resumed earlier this month in Vienna after a five-month hiatus that came following Raisi's election. But negotiators ended the round disappointed, claiming Iran had backtracked on progress made in previous rounds and had dug in with new demands on sanctions relief.

Iran also isn't slowing down advances in its atomic program, further raising the stakes in talks. In the midst of the negotiations, the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog confirmed that Iran had begun enriching uranium up to 20% purity at its underground facility at Fordo — a site where enrichment is not permitted under the deal.

Israel considers Iran to

be its greatest enemy and it strongly opposed the 2015 deal. It says it wants an improved deal that places tighter restrictions on Iran's nuclear program and addresses Iran's long-range missile program and its support for hostile proxies along Israel's borders. Israel also says the negotiations must be accompanied by a "credible" military threat to ensure that Iran does not delay indefinitely.

Iran says its nuclear program is meant for peaceful purposes.

Fox News anchor Wallace leaving network after 'great ride' for CNN

By David Bauder Associated Press

NEW YORK - Veteran anchor Chris Wallace signed off his Fox News Sunday show after 18 years to join CNN, dealing a blow to Fox's news operation at a time its opinion side has become preeminent.

CNN announced shortly after his show ended that Wallace, 74, will join the streaming service CNN+ as an anchor. The service is due to debut next year.

"It is the last time, and I say this with real sadness, we will meet like this," Wallace said on the program he moderates, "Fox News Sunday." "Eighteen years ago, the bosses

here at Fox promised me they would never interfere with a guest I booked or a question I asked. And they kept that promise."

Wallace was a veteran broadcast network newsman, working at both ABC



Wallace

and NBC News, before the late Roger Ailes lured him to Fox with the promise of his own Sunday show. Methodical and never showy - in contrast to his father

Mike, the legendary "60 Minutes" reporter — Chris Wallace was known for his methodical preparation and willingness to ask hard questions of all guests.

Wallace generally co-existed with Fox's opinion side and infrequently took them on publicly, although in 2017 he said it was "bad form" when opinion hosts bashed the media.

'I have been free to report to the best of my ability, to cover the stories I think are important, to hold our country's leaders to account," Wallace said Sunday. "It's been a great ride."

His announcement took guests on his show Sunday by surprise as they were not

tipped off ahead of time. Fox said a series of guest anchors will take over for Wallace until a permanent host is named.

Wallace was one of a prominent triumvirate of straight news anchors at Fox who offered a contrast to popular opinion hosts such as Tucker Carlson and Sean Hannity. Shepard Smith left in 2019 and is now doing a news show at CNBC. Bret Baier remains at Fox as host of a Washington-based

evening news program. There was a report from NPR this fall that Wallace and Baier had objected to

Fox executives about some of the more strident opinion programming, particularly Carlson's documentary on the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection, "Patriot Purge."

In CNN's announcement, he said, "I look forward to the new freedom and flexibility streaming affords in interviewing major figures across the news landscape - and finding new ways to tell stories."

CNN said more details about Wallace's new role will be forthcoming.







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WORLD & NATION

NEWS BRIEFING

Stricken by drought, West set to be hit by major winter storm

From news services

The Western U.S. is bracing for the brunt of a major winter storm expected to hit Monday, bringing travel headaches, the threat of localized flooding and some relief in an abnormally warm fall.

Light rain and snow fell in Northern California on Sunday, giving residents a taste of what's to come. The multiday storm could drop more than 8 feet of snow on the highest peaks and drench other parts of California as it pushes south and east before moving out midweek.

"This is a pretty widespread event," said National Weather Service meteorologist Anna Wanless in Sacramento, "Most of California. if not all, will see some sort of rain and snow."

The precipitation will bring at least temporary relief to the broader region that's been gripped by drought caused by climate change. The latest U.S. drought monitor shows parts of Montana, Oregon, California, Nevada and Utah in exceptional drought, which is the worst category.

Most reservoirs that deliver water to states, cities, tribes, farmers and utilities rely on melted snow in the springtime.

The storm this week is typical for this time of the year but notable because it's the first big snow that is expected to significantly affect travel with ice and snow on the roads, strong wind and limited visibility, Wanless said. Drivers on some mountainous passes on Sunday had to wrap their tires in chains.

Officials urged people to delay travel and stay indoors. Rain could cause minor flooding and rockslides, especially in areas that have been scarred by wildfires,

according to the forecast. Strong winds accompanying the storm could lead to power outages, forecasters

A second storm predicted to hit California midweek could deliver almost continuous snow, said Edan Weishahn of the weather service in Reno, which monitors an area straddling the Nevada state line.

S. African leader infected: South African President Cyril Ramaphosa is receiving treatment for mild COVID-19 symptoms after testing positive for the disease Sunday, his office

A test confirmed COVID-19, a statement from the presidency announced.

Ramaphosa, 69, is self-isolating in Cape Town and is being monitored by the South African Military Health Service, the statement said. He has delegated all responsibilities to Deputy President David Mabuza for the next week.

Ramaphosa is fully vaccinated. The statement didn't say whether he had been infected with the omicron variant.

South Africa is battling a rapid resurgence driven by the omicron variant, health officials say. The country recorded more than 18,000 new confirmed cases Sunday night. More than 70% of the cases are estimated to be from omicron, according to genetic sequencing surveys.

Netanyahu security detail: An Israeli parliamentary committee voted Sunday to stop providing personal security for former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's wife and adult sons, six months after the longtime leader was ousted from

The decision, which goes into effect Monday,



Pilgrims walk Sunday to the Basilica of Guadalupe in Mexico City. The annual pilgrimage marks the day in 1531 when the Virgin of Guadalupe, patroness of Latin America's Catholics, is said to have appeared on the hillside behind the basilica. Millions come each year, many walking or biking for days from distant towns. PEDRO PARDO/GETTY-AFP

came despite pleas from Netanyahu that his family is regularly subjected to threats on their lives.

Netanyahu was unseated from the prime minister's office in June parties united in their opposition to him succeeded in forming a government without his long-ruling Likud party. The one-time leader, who served as prime minister for 12 consecutive years, is now the opposition leader and continues to have a state-issued security detail.

Under standard procedures, security and a chauffeured vehicle are granted to the family of a former prime minister for the first six months after he leaves office. But in January, at Netanyahu's insistence, that limit was extended by a ministerial committee to one year.

On Sunday, the same committee adopted a recommendation from the Shin Bet security service to reduce the period to six months.

Netanyahu criticized the

anticipated decision Friday, saying there were regular threats made against the lives of his family and that "the writing is on the wall."

Spanish volcano: A volcanic eruption in Spain's Canary Islands shows no sign of ending after 85 days, becoming the island of La Palma's longest eruption on record Sunday.

The eruption has surged and ebbed since it first began spewing lava on Sept. 19. It has since destroyed almost 3,000 local buildings and forced several thousand people to abandon their

On Sunday, after several days of low-level activity, the Cumbre Vieja volcano suddenly sprang to life again, producing loud explosions and blowing a vast cloud of ash high into the sky.

Independence vote fails: Voters in the French island territory of New Caledonia chose overwhelmingly Sunday to stay part of France, in a referendum boycotted by pro-independence forces and closely watched around the South Pacific.

French President Emmanuel Macron hailed the result as a resounding confirmation of France's role in the Indo-Pacific, and announced negotiations on the territory's future status. Separatist activists expressed dismay and resig-

They had urged a delay in the vote because of the pandemic, and were angry over what they felt were French government efforts to sway the campaign. So they called on their supporters to stay away from voting

Official results showed a staggering 96% of those who took part chose to stay in France. Overall turnout was less than 44% — barely half the numbers who showed up in a previous independence referendum last year, where support for breaking away was 46.7%.

New Caledonia, colonized by Napoleon's nephew in the 19th century, is an archipelago of about 270,000 people east of Australia that is 10 time zones ahead of Paris and hosts a French military

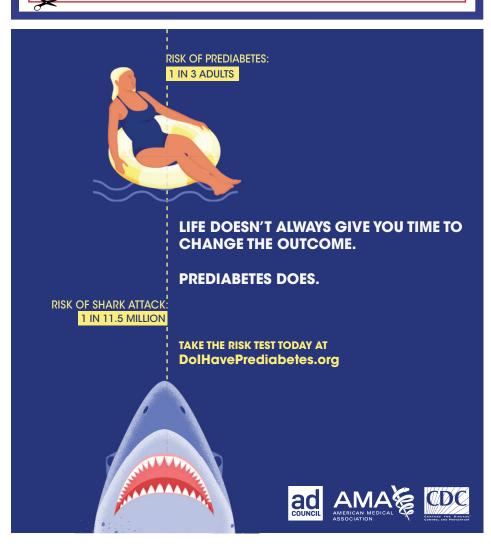
Revere family auction: Artifacts once owned by Paul Revere's family have been sold at auction for \$20,000.

The items were found in the attic of a home in Canton, Massachusetts, believed to have been owned by the family of the legendary Revolutionary War figure, The Boston Globe

They include tools, letters and other personal items. There's also an account book belonging to Paul Revere's descendants and a sign painted black bearing the name of Paul Revere's son, Joseph W. Revere.

John McInnis Auctioneers sold the items as a single lot that was estimated to go for between \$1,000 and







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Climate extremes batter Aussies

2 years of fires give way to rainfall that leaves some stranded

By Damien Cave The New York Times

WEE WAA, Australia — Two years ago, the fields outside Christina Southwell's family home near the cotton capital of Australia looked like a dusty, brown desert as drought-fueled wildfires burned to the north and south.

This month, after recordbreaking rains, muddy floodwaters surrounded her — along with the stench of rotting crops. She had been trapped for days with just her cat and still didn't know when the sludge would recede.

"It seems to take for bloody ever to go away," she said, watching a boat carry food into the town of Wee Waa. "All it leaves behind is this stink, and it's just going to get worse."

Life on the land has always been hard in Australia, but the past few years have delivered one extreme after another, demanding new levels of resilience and pointing to the rising costs of a warming planet. For many Australians, moderate weather — a pleasant summer, a year without a state of emergency — increasingly feels like a luxury.

The Black Summer bush fires of 2019 and 2020 were the worst in Australia's recorded history. This year, many of the same areas that suffered through those epic blazes endured the wettest, coldest November since at least 1900. Hundreds of people, across several states, have been forced to evacuate

Many more, like Southwell, are stranded on flood plain islands with no way to leave except by boat or helicopter, possibly until after Christmas.

And with a second year of the weather phenomenon



Christina Southwell contends with floodwater in her garden shed in Wee Waa, Australia. MATTHEW ABBOTT/THE NEW YORK TIMES

known as La Nina in full swing, meteorologists are predicting even more flooding for Australia's east coast, adding to the stress from the COVID-19 pandemic, not to mention from a recent rural mouse plague of biblical proportions.

"It feels constant," said Brett Dickinson, 58, a wheat farmer who lives not far from Southwell in northwest New South Wales, about a six-hour drive from Sydney. "We're constantly battling all the elements—and the animals too."

There's a tendency to think of such extremes as "natural disasters" or "acts of God" that come and go with news reports. But Australia's nightmares of nature ebb and flow. Its droughts and floods, although weather opposites, are driven by the same forces — some of them timeless, others newer and caused by humans.

Andy Pitman, director of the ARC Center of Excellence for Climate Extremes at the University of New South Wales, said the ups and downs of weather had been severe for millenniums on the Australian landmass, which is as large as the continental United States and surrounded by powerful climate-driving oceans, from the tropical South Pacific to the colder Southern Ocean off Antarctica.

As a consequence, the El Nino and La Nina patterns tend to hit Australia harder than they do other places, with harsh droughts that end with major floods. Some scientists even suggest that the way that marsupials reproduce, with the ability to put active pregnancies on pause, shows that the El Nino-La Nina cycle has been around long enough for flora and fauna to adapt.

On top of that already intense variability, Pitman said, are now two additional complicating factors: "climate change and human decisions around building things."

Both make fires and floods more damaging. "A small change in climate

"A small change in climate coupled with a small change in landscapes can have a large impact on flood characteristics," Pitman said.

The results are already visible in government budgets. The cost of climate disasters in Australia has more than doubled since the 1970s.

Ron Campbell, the mayor of Narrabri Shire, which includes Wee Waa, said his area was still waiting for government payments to offset damage from past catastrophes.

He wondered when governments would stop paying for infrastructure repairs after every emergency.

"The costs are just enormous, not just here but at all the other places in similar circumstances," he said.

More viscerally, the effect of a "supercharged climate" is drawn on the land itself. Across the vast tracts of farmland and small towns between Melbourne and Sydney where much of the country's food, cattle, wine — and coal — are produced, the effects of fire, drought and flood coexist.

and nood coexist.

Even in areas that did not burst into flames, the heat waves and lack of rainfall that preceded the bush fires killed as much as 60% of the trees in some places. Cattle farmers culled so much of their herds during the drought that beef prices have risen more than 50% as they rush to restock paddocks nourished (nearly to death) by heavy rain.

Bryce Guest, a helicopter pilot in Narrabri, once watched the dust bowls grow from above. Then came "just a monstrous amount of rain," he said, and a new kind of job: flights to mechanical pumps pushing water from fields to irrigation dams in a last-ditch effort to preserve crops that had been heading for a record harvest.

On one recent flight,

he pointed to mountains of stored grain — worth six figures, at least — that were ruined by the rains, with heavy equipment trapped and rusting next to it. Farther inland, a home surrounded by levees had become a small island accessible only by boat or copter.

"Australia is all about water; everything revolves around it," he said. "Where you put your home, your stock. Everything."

In Wee Waa, where the water has started to recede, supplies and people flowed in and out recently by helicopter and in a small boat piloted by volunteers.

Still, there were shortages everywhere — mostly of people. In a community of around 2,000 people, half of the teachers at the local public school couldn't make it to work.

At the town's only pharmacy, Tien On, the owner, struggled with a short-handed staff to keep up with requests. He was especially concerned about delayed drug deliveries by helicopter for patients with mental health medications.

Southwell, 69, was better prepared than most. She spent 25 years volunteering with emergency services and has been teaching first aid for decades. After a quick trip into Wee Waa by boat, she returned to her home with groceries and patience, checking a shed for the stray cats she feeds and discovering that only one of her chickens appeared to have drowned.

She said she wasn't sure how much climate change could be blamed for the floods; her father had put their house on higher stilts because they knew the waters would rise on occasion.

All she knew was that more extreme weather and severe challenges to the community would be coming their way.

"The worst part of it is the waiting," she said. "And the cleanup."



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Sunday outlined a plan to increase COVID-19 booster shots designed to counter an omicron variant "emergency." **KIRSTY O'CONNOR/POOL VIA AP**

PM Johnson: Britain to see a 'tidal wave' of omicron cases

By Jill Lawless Associated Press

LONDON — Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Sunday that Britain faces a "tidal wave" of infections from the omicron coronavirus variant, and announced a huge increase in booster vaccinations to strengthen defenses against it.

In a televised statement, Johnson said everyone age 18 and older will be offered a third shot of vaccine by the end of this month in response to the omicron "emergency." The previous target was the end of January.

He said cases of the highly transmissible variant are doubling every two to three days and "there is a tidal wave of omicron coming."

"And I'm afraid it is now clear that two doses of vaccine are simply not enough to give the level of protection we all need," Johnson said. "But the good news is that our scientists are confident that with a third dose — a booster dose — we can all bring our level of protection back up."

He announced

"national mission" to deliver booster vaccines, with pop-up vaccination centers, seven-day-a-week clinics getting support from teams of military planners and thousands of volunteer vaccinators.

Johnson's target applies to England. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are also expected to speed up their vaccination campaigns.

IJK scientists believe

U.K. scientists believe existing vaccines appear less effective in preventing symptomatic infections in people exposed to omicron, though preliminary data show that effectiveness appears to rise to between 70% and 75% after a third vaccine dose.

Johnson's announcement came hours after the government raised the country's official coronavirus threat level, warning the rapid spread of the omicron variant had pushed the U.K. into risky territory.

The chief medical officers of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland said the emergence of the highly transmissible new strain "adds additional and rapidly increasing risk to

the public and health care services" at a time when COVID-19 is already widespread. They recommended raising the alert level from 3 to 4 on a 5-point scale. The top level, 5, indicates authorities think the health care system is about to be overwhelmed.

The doctors said early evidence shows omicron is spreading much faster than the currently dominant delta variant, and that vaccines offer less protection against it. British officials say omicron is likely to replace delta as the dominant strain in the U.K. within days.

Concerns about the new variant led Johnson's Conservative government to reintroduce restrictions that were lifted almost six months ago. Masks must be worn in most indoor settings, COVID-19 certificates must be shown to enter nightclubs and people are being urged to work from home if possible.

Many scientists say that's unlikely to be enough, however, and are calling for tougher measures, which the government so far has resisted.

Inflation still high, but some relief on horizon, experts say

By Stan Choe and Cathy Bussewitz Associated Press

NEW YORK — Inflation is painfully high, but this hopefully is close to as bad as it gets.

Consumer prices rose 6.8% for the 12 months ending in November, a 39-year high. Many economists expect inflation to remain near this level a few more months but to then moderate through 2022 for a variety of reasons. And they don't see a repeat of the 1970s or early 1980s, when inflation ran above 10% for frighteningly long stretches.

Households could see relief in some areas within

weeks.

Prices have dropped on global markets for crude oil and natural gas, which means lower prices at the pump and for home heating. That should keep inflation somewhat in check, even if prices keep rising elsewhere in the economy.

Economists say inflation will likely stay higher than it was before the pandemic, even after it eases through 2022. More often than not in the last 10 years, inflation was below 2%, and it even scraped below zero during parts of 2015. The bigger danger then was too-low inflation, which can also lead to a weak economy.

lead to a weak economy.

"This is not going to be an easy fix," said Nela Richardson, chief economist at ADP. "Just because inflation will eventually moderate doesn't mean that prices are going to go down. They're up. We're just lowering the rate of change, not the level of prices."

Russell Price, chief economist at Ameriprise, expects inflation to peak at 7.1% in December and January. After that, he expects the inflation rate to fall toward 4% by the summer and below 3% by the end of the year, but to stay above 2% through 2023.

One reason for the



Consumer prices rose 6.8% for the 12 months ending in November, but gas prices are falling. Above, a driver fills up on Dec. 10 in Marysville, Washington. **ELAINE THOMPSON/AP**

moderation, he said, is improving supply chains. They had become ensnarled when the global economy returned to life following its brief shutdown, and economists hope increasing availability of items — everything from computer chips to shipping containers — will help inflation to ease.

"It's in no one's interests

"It's in no one's interests to have the supply chain as disruptive as it has been," Price said.

Wall Street also expects the Federal Reserve to say this week that it will accelerate its exit from a monthly bond-buying program meant to support the economy. That would open the door for it to begin raising short-term interest rates. Both the bond buying and low rates are intended to spur borrowing, which gets people and companies to buy more things. That can help drive inflation higher,

as demand outstrips supply. The U.S. government will also potentially offer less aid to households in 2022, whether that's through child tax credit payments or beefed-up unemployment benefits. That could also lead to fewer purchases by Americans, further lessening the pressure on inflation.

on. Most immediately, Amer-

icans should see swings in inflation via energy costs.

A gallon of regular gasoline has fallen about 2.4% over the last month, to a little less than \$3.35 per gallon on Friday, according to AAA. Last year, a gallon of regular was only \$2.16.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration forecasts gasoline will drop again to an average of \$3.13 in December and to \$2.88 for all of 2022 after averaging \$3.39 last month, the highest since 2014.

highest since 2014.

"That should provide some relief for consumers when they go to fill up their tanks. Now how much relief? That's really hard to tell," said Andrew Gross, spokesman for AAA. "It's really hard to gauge what sort of world events are happening. And it really doesn't take much to spike oil prices."

Oil prices have dropped for a number of reasons. On one side, nations have

On one side, nations have made agreements to boost oil supplies.

On the other, the omicron variant of the coronavirus dented expectations for demand on worries it would cause lockdowns and canceled travel. Benchmark U.S. crude oil has fallen nearly 15% since the start of November.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Anti-abortion advocates can't have it both ways

After reading "The Case Against Abortion" by Ross Douthat [Opinion, Dec. 1], I have these thoughts: Mr. Douthat gave a good argument about the moral side of the pro-life movement, in that abortion is about ending a human life. Much time, money, and effort has been spent by the pro-life movement to bring an end to legal abortion. But it is my understanding that many people in that movement also are against the use of contraceptives, including the Catholic Church. This leaves people with fewer options when dealing with unwanted pregnancies.

If those in the pro-life movement spent a fraction of their effort promoting the use of contraceptives and the widespread education of the general public about sexual reproduction, we would see a significant drop in the number of abortions. We can't have it both ways. We can't forbid or discourage the use of contraceptives and expect no one to seek an abor-

Roger Pelletier, Portland

Supreme Court shouldn't be calling the shots

So the Supreme Court might allow states to make the window for abortion much smaller, which could lead to overturning Roe vs. Wade. Not only can it roll back Roe vs. Wade, but it could then have a rippling effect on gay rights. My burning question has always been that if church and state are separate, then why can the church dictate parts of my life? Why are justices appointed for a lifetime? If they are going to have any say in my life, then I should be able to vote on who is in there. Why are they so untouchable?

Kathi Robbins, Jewett City

Unfair criticism of Fauci

Ramesh Ponnuru's essay [Opinion, Dec. 3, "There's a science to excusing Fauci"] unfairly attacks Dr. Anthony Fauci's record of advice early in the pandemic. Early in 2020 very little was known about the new virus. And there were many sources of advice on how to avoid getting infected. It was necessary for him, as the world's preeminent infectious disease expert, to provide perspective in an environment that included wild speculation. It is no surprise that it was impossible to navigate this environment without the chance of offering advice that might have to be amended as new information became available or circumstances changed.

My scientific background is in molecular virology and rarely have I found his statements to be inaccurate, and never have I thought he was intentionally misleading. He provides the best advice possible based on current scientific knowledge, and he tries to do so in a way that is understood by his audience.

Leonard P. Paplauskas, Cheshire

Let's learn the correct pronunciation of omicron

Now that the omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus is upon us, it is important to understand why the name should be pronounced, "ah-micron" and not "o-micron" as is often the case. The Greek alphabet has two letters to denote the "Oh" sound – omicron and omega – both with slightly different pronunciations and connotations. And with "micron" being the Greek word for small, it is clear that omicron means little or small O, differentiating it from omega, with its larger and more distinct sound. As a Greek American, I am pleased whenever the language of my forebears finds a place in daily discourse, even if, at times, I become annoyed when it does.

James Rouman, Hartford



The fastest train from New Haven in 1914 was the Bankers Express, which arrived at Grand Central one minute quicker than the fastest MetroNorth train of today. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

State should learn from past and invest in commuter rail

By Blaize Levitan

I commute halfway across Connecticut for work five days a week. While it's a long commute, it would be astronomically less tolerable to face the mind-numbing traffic that plagues I-95 daily. Fortunately, my commute falls along the MetroNorth rail line. While traveling to and from work, I'm able to sit back and work, read, or catch up on errands, while observing the idle ant lines of cars on the parallel highway. Yet, even as I slowly glide by I-95, I can't help but feel sorrow for what we've let MetroNorth become.

The current state of the New Haven Line shares its story with infrastructure in Connecticut and the U.S. as a whole. Sadly, each chapter of this story is an international embarrassment.

After the Great Depression and World War II, the U.S. made huge investments in public infrastructure. As a nation, we upgraded rail lines, built bridges, created an interstate highway system, expanded the electrical grid and built thousands of public facilities that are, unfortunately, in use well beyond their useful life. Today, there are over 5,000 rail cars, 200 stations, and thousands of miles of track, signals, and power systems in need of replacement, according to the White House. Despite being the richest nation in the world, we have allowed our public transportation assets to fall into embarrassingly poor condition.

In the 1960s, federal domestic investment represented over 30% of federal spending, compared to just 12% in 2019, according to the Congressional Budget Office. As a percentage of Gross Domestic Product, we were spending three times more than we are today on domestic investments like infrastructure. This reduction in funding priority has had devastating consequences on rail service.

The fastest train from New Haven in 1914 was the Bankers Express, which arrived at Grand Central one minute quicker than the fastest MetroNorth train of today. According to MetroNorth, the

average delay in 2021 was over 12 minutes, despite a significant reduction in ridership because of the pandemic.

The New Haven Line is part of the nation's most heavily traveled rail line, known as the Northeast Corridor, which runs from Washington, D.C., to Boston. The New Haven Line alone has 34 bridges rated as being in poor or serious condition and four bridges over 100 years old that must be replaced (Devon Bridge, Saga Bridge, Walk Bridge and Cos Cob Bridge), according to a 2021 analysis by CDOT. The poor bridge and rail conditions along the entire line result in speed-restricted travel that slows commute times, causes congestion and decreases reliability of the rail service. In 2021, annually occurring conditions like falling leaves and rain are still common causes of delay.

The poor condition of the New Haven Line reflects decades of national underfunding of America's once world-class public infrastructure assets. The Reagan administration of the 1980s would solidify underfunding infrastructure as the rule, instead favoring privatization of public infrastructure for decades to come.

Yet, there is hope for this story, According to polls by Monmouth University and Yale University, nearly 70% of Americans support increasing infrastructure funding. Further, millennial and Gen Z generations overwhelmingly support public transportation. According to Vox, Gen Z even has a high-speed rail meme that was tweeted earlier this year by the secretary of transportation. Thankfully, President Joe Biden, a die-hard public transportation advocate, occupies the White House. Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, signed last month, is the single largest federal investment in public transit in history and in passenger rail since the creation of Amtrak 50 years ago, accord-

Through Gov. Ned Lamont, Connecticut is poised to act on this influx of funding. His Department of Transportation commissioner, Joseph Giulietti, has a

strong track record of executing projects and is a well-known entity in the transit industry. The governor, himself an advocate of public transit, has spent significant political capital fighting for new infrastructure revenue sources and recognizes the vital role public transit plays in strengthening Connecticut's economy. Through his Time for CT Plan, targeted investments with increased funding would reduce commute times on the New Haven Line by about 10 minutes next year and at least 25 minutes by 2035. Though the CT GOP has made underfunding Connecticut's public infrastructure a key tenant of their platform, largely by the illogical hardline opposition to any new infrastructure revenue sources, Nutmeggers overwhelmingly support improving and expanding public transit infrastructure, according to a 2019 survey by Transport Hartford. This misalignment with public preference was reflected in both the 2018 and the landslide 2020 statewide elections. As voters, if we continue to make our voices for public transit and infrastructure heard, we have the chance to write an exciting new chapter in this

Although I complain about the condition of MetroNorth and our larger American rail system, it's only because I love train travel and long to see technological revolutions of the past century reflected in our transportation systems. Commuting by rail is safer than travel by personal vehicle and is markedly better for the environment. Data from the US Department of Energy shows that rail has a significantly lower energy footprint than airplanes, trucks and cars. So for now, while we begin the next chapter of our infrastructure story, I'll happily bump along the New Haven Line any day, over sitting in the parking lot that is I-95.

Blaize Levitan has a master's degree in public administration from UConn. He also writes about public policy and government, and serves on the CT Commuter Rail

OP-ED

If Trump runs, he may find Christie ready to rumble

By George F. Will The Washington Post

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. — The New Jersey political style is simmering truculence between brawls. Chris Christie, the state's former two-term Republican governor, indicates — by his words and, as important, his demeanor of surplus pugnacity — that he is spoiling for a fight.

He is brimful of combativeness, even when, on a recent evening, his attention was divided among Republicans' misadventures, President Joe Biden's shortcomings and a plate of pasta. Christie might find an outlet for his spiritedness in the Republicans' 2024 presidential competition. Donald Trump should not assume that he can avoid Republican opposition if he becomes the first former president since Theodore Roosevelt in 1912 to reenter presidential politics. If Trump hopes to be the second president, after Grover Cleveland in 1888, to regain the presidency after losing a reelection bid, he might find Christie ready to rumble.

Trump's most successful policies tax cuts, deregulation, judges evaluated by Federalist Society criteria — did not differ from those of actual Republicans. His manner emphatically did. More than a smidgen of pugnacity might be needed

by a Republican presidential candidate attempting to hold Trump voters while winning back those repelled by him. If combativeness without infantile name-calling and pathological lying is the

recipe, Christie might be the chef. For perhaps a majority of Trump's voters, the former president's bad-boy persona was the point. For them, policies mattered less than experiencing through him the cultural catharsis of offending those they find offensive. Among the 36% of registered voters with a college degree, 56% voted for Biden. Republicans need to regain ground with this cohort without forfeiting votes on the other side of the "diploma divide."

Florida, the most important swing state, has become less white and more Republican, which suggests to Politico's Zack Stanton that "non-college educated white people have more culturally in common with working-class Black and working-class Hispanic voters." Christie twice won the governorship of a state that last voted Republican in a presidential race in 1988. He received 32% and 51% of Hispanic votes in 2009 and 2013, respectively, and 9% and 21% of Black votes, respectively. No Republican presidential candidate has received 21% of the Black vote since 1960.

Jeffrey H. Anderson, president of the

American Main Street Initiative, argues (in the Claremont Review of Books) that the Republican road to the White House runs through Big Ten country: Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa. In two elections, Trump won more victories in these states (7) than Republican presidential candidates had won over the previous seven elections combined. Christie's implicit case for himself is that he can appeal to the Trumpist majority of the Republican base without further debasing it, the GOP and the nation.

With his new book "Republican Rescue," Christie begins reacquainting Trump voters with reality. The book often is an awkward mixture of strategic reticence and obvious evasions, but not on one important point: He demolishes what he calls the "drivel" about fraud stealing the 2020 election. Readers will be in no doubt about the identity of the prime driveler.

On election night, when Trump cried fraud, Christie says he was shocked. But he pointedly notes that weeks earlier, when Trump was asked if he would commit to a peaceful transfer of power, he replied, "Well, we'll have to see what happens." Christie writes that he thought Trump had "better have evidence" of fraud. But Christie mercilessly dissects Trump's years of indifference to evidence - his original

flight of "inflammation without information" - regarding Barack Obama's birth-

place. The book's schizophrenia is so undisguised it seems tactical. Christie is daring to acknowledge, and demonstrating a willingness to undertake, the political contortions necessary to propel the Republican Party up from Trump, away from performative entertainment and back to politics. Christie is saying: No one worked harder than I did to put my friend of 20 years in office and keep him there, and he is a liar,

Christie says he does not want to make his divergences from Trump "personal," but he surely knows that for Trump everything is personal. Christie inveighs against "wallowing in the past" and "the quicksand of endless grievances." In Florida, the thick man with the thin skin is not wondering to whom Christie refers, and will not be forgiving just because Christie was, as he repeatedly reminds readers, "the first major officeholder" to endorse Trump.

The Trump parenthesis in Republican politics will not end without a fight. One pugilist seems ready.

George F. Will writes on politics and domestic and foreign affairs for The Washington

OBITUARIES BY TOWN

-armington

West Hartford

Phyllis S. Schloss Phyllis S. Schloss Denotes name listing only. Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Schloss, Phyllis S (Pisetsky)

Phyllis Selma Schloss (Pisetsky), 85, of Mount Lebanon, PA, formerly of West Hartford, CT passed away peacefully at her home in Pittsburgh on December 9, 2021. Phyllis was the third of five children of Mildred and Benjamin Pisetsky, and was born and raised in Hartford, CT. She was the loving mother of three children, Laura (Brian) Davidson of Mount Lebanon, PA; Renee (David) Metsch, of North Andover, MA; and Michael (Sharon) Schloss of Unionville, CT; and an adored Bubby to six grandchildren: Michelle (Brad) Caswell, Stephanie Schloss, Benjamin, Maxwell and Sarah Davidson and Schloss, Benjamin, Maxwell and Sarah Davidson and Benjamin Metsch. She was predeceased by her husband Sherwin Schloss and her older siblings Libby Beatman and Marvin Pisetsky. She is also survived by her younger siblings Calvin (Elaine) Price of FL and Felda Deena Yron of Israel. She graduated from Weaver High School and Central Connecticut State University and married her high school sweetheart "Shep" on December 15, 1957. They raised their family in West Hartford while she worked as an elementary school teacher at the Mark Twain School and taught religious school at Beth Israel. Phyllis volunteered with Meals on Wheels and earned her master's degree as a Reading Specialist. She created a marvelous Jewish home including gourmet holiday meals and weekly Shabbat dinners and was an active member of Beth El Temple. She was an avid reader, excellent knitter and enjoyed a challenging game of bridge. Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, December 15, graveside, at Beth El cemetery, Avon, CT. Arrangements are entrusted to Weinstein Mortuary, Hartford, CT.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

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TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD INVITATION TO BID #1112 SPLASH PAD

The Town of Bloomfield, Connecticut invites bids from qualified bidders for replacing an existing wading pool with a new municipal splash pad, which includes construction of a spiasn pad, which includes construction of a spray deck, an interactive water play feature and all other related work for the project. Information regarding the bid can be found on the Town's website, www.bloomfieldct. gov. All bids must be received by 1:00 PM on January 4, 2022 to be considered.

Proposals for: Building Improvements, at the Ansonia Early Care and Education Center at 80 Howard Avenue Ansonia, Connecticut, 06401 will be accepted until 12:00 pm on January 6, 2022 at the office of Team Inc. 30 Elizabeth Street, Derby, Connecticut 06418. At which time they will be opened and read. All potential bidders must provide contact information via email to edwrdly@sbcglobal. net prior to the mandatory walk-through scheduled December 18, 2021 at 9:00 am. Copy and paste the following link https://we.tl/t-baGOQ[0fQ to access bid documents via We Transfer. Proposals are to be mailed or hand delivered to Team Inc. is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer. Minority business enterprises, women business enterprises are encouraged to apply. Team Inc. reserves the right to waive any informality, to reject any or all proposals or any part of any proposals when it is determined to be in their best interest. Team Inc. will not be responsible for any cost involved in the preparation of the quotation. Questions may be directed to Mr. Edward Leavy at edwrdly@sbcglobal.net 12/11 - 12/17/2021 7104619 12/13/21 7104227

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Request For Proposal #04-2110

Connecticut

The State of Connecticut Judicial Branch, Court Support Services Division, is seeking proposals from qualified organizations to provide a smart phone application that will provide two-way communication.

Proposals must be received by 2:30 p.m. or Friday, February 4, 2022. Late proposals will NOT be accepted.

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Proposal package may be obtained from the Judicial Branch, Purchasing Services web site below at: www.jud.ct.gov/external/news/busopp/

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The Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) Ine Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) invites the submission of signed and sealed proposals to furnish schools, municipalities and non-profits with Office Supplies, Multi-Purpose Paper and School & Instructional Supplies. Visit www.crec.org/rfp and click sign in to register and access the bid. Responses must be received no later than 11:00 a.m. on January 21, 2022. 12/13, 14, 15/21 7100667

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING OF THE CONNECTICUT PORT AUTHORITY

Tuesday December 14, 2021 5:30 P.M. Location: In response to concerns regard-

ing the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), and in the interest of the safety and well-being of participants, this meeting will be held remotely by conference call.

Public Dial-In Information Number: 681-999-0297 PIN: 303243#

Pursuant to Section 15-31a(n) of the General Pursuant to Section 15-31a(n) of the General Statutes of Connecticut, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the general public that the BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CONNECTICUT PORT AUTHORITY will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on DECEMBER 14, 2021, commencing at 5:30 PM., to be held remotely via teleconference, accessible using the dial-in information above, for the purpose of evaluating the adequacy of the State's maritime policies, facilities and support for maritime commerce and industry. 12/7 - 12/14/2021 7097064

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Brightening holidays for those in need

Show-stopping light displays in Plainville, Bristol raise money for charitable causes

By Don Stacom Hartford Courant

Glimmering holiday decorations are common in December, but every year a few homeowners go above and beyond — far, far beyond.

A few spots in central Connecticut offer wildly over-the-top light displays — sometimes synced to music — that often can be seen blocks away. These extravaganzas are free, but have a special goal: Helping the

hungry or needy by collecting perishable food donations or financial contributions from visitors.

Three of the region's must-see locations this season:

April and Mark's Cartoon Christmas, Plainville

The folks whose larger-than-life Scooby Doo lawn display became a neighborhood icon now do a full-scale walk-through Christmas extravaganza.

Replicas of popular cartoon characters

Turn to Lights, Page 2



April and Mark's Cartoon Christmas in Plainville is a walk-through holiday display that welcomed more than 3,500 visitors last year. MARK BLETHEN/COURTESY



Paul Melanson, Kelle Becconsall and Adam Westhaver, who comprise BMW Sports LLC, are working to bring new life to the International Skating Center of Connecticut in Simsbury. **SEAMUS MCAVOY/HARTFORD COURANT**

Ice dreams heat up

Group aims to return International Skating Center, once used by Olympians, to glory

By Seamus McAvoy | Hartford Courant

he International Skating Center of Connecticut opened in Simsbury more than 25 years ago as a state-of-the-art, world-class training facility: a destination for skaters at the highest level of the sport.

The building, built in a hurry off the buzz generated by the 1994 World Figure Skating Championships in Japan, was once home to nearly as many Olympians as Mytikas, including Vadim Naumov, Eugenia Shishkova and gold medalist Oksana Baiul.

But for years, the once-proud facility has been beset by neglect and poor investment. The elite skaters left town, while the center slowly fell to a condition that betrays its grandiose name.

Turn to Ice, Page 2



The International Skating Center is already immensely popular, with 40 hockey teams playing there.

COURANT FILE PHOTO

Theaters rethink paper playbills

Local venues limiting their use, encouraging patrons to download information

By Christopher Arnott

Hartford Courant

Everyone is wearing masks and listening to fresh announcements about COVID-19 guidelines, but there's another change in Connecticut theaters: fewer and smaller playbills.

The Bushnell still passes out playbills, but ushers are told to only give out one per couple. The Hartford Symphony Orchestra doesn't pass out the paper programs at all, keeping a small stack of photocopied info on the concerts at a table in the lobby but otherwise encouraging patrons to download the information from the symphony's website using a scanned QR code.

The playbills for the current shows at Hartford Stage and TheaterWorks Hartford are each a single folded sheet — four small pages, mainly filled with names of the cast members and others involved in the productions. Both theaters invite playgoers to access fuller playbills via QR codes.

For professional theaters, doing away with paper playbills entirely is not an option. The Equity union, which represents actors, requires that the cast's names be distributed in a printed program and also listed on a public call board inside the theater. (At The Bushnell, that board is a large unmissable easel in the lobby.) It's possible that the union's reliance on tangible printed lists of its members' names may evolve with newer technology, but that's unlikely to happen anytime soon.

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, there were concerns that the coronavirus could be spread by contaminated objects. That was a good reason not to have playbills in March of 2020, but is no longer a prevalent concern.

Turn to Playbills, Page 2

State high court leans on lawmakers to produce map

Commission asked to submit congressional districts by Dec. 21 after missing deadline

By Mark Pazniokas CT Mirror

The Connecticut Supreme Court has given the legislature's Reapportionment Commission until noon on Dec. 21 to produce a congressional district map before assigning the task to a court-appointed special master. The bipartisan commission can only act under court supervision since missing a constitutional deadline of Nov. 30, a delay that a lawyer for the commission attributed to the pandemic, not a deadlock.

"Your honor, I'm pleased to report to this court that the commission is not at an impasse," Assistant Attorney General Maura Murphy Osborne told Chief Justice Richard Robinson in a status conference conducted by video conferencing last week.

Democrats and Republicans are to exchange proposed congressional maps for

the first time Friday, but legislative leaders on the commission said in interviews that they already had agreed on a foundational principle of political neutrality.

The map would be drawn to make the minimal changes necessary to equalize the population of the five districts without tilting any district to the advantage or disadvantage of the incumbents, all Democrats.

The court made clear it expects to see progress. In addition to the extension to Dec. 21, the court essentially set an earlier deadline, requiring the commission to produce

a progress report and offer names of three potential special masters by 5 p.m. on Dec. 15.

Redistricting is a legislative function in Connecticut under the state constitution, but the state's highest court becomes responsible for the function after the Nov. 30 deadline.

The Reapportionment Commission unanimously approved maps for the 36 state Senate and 151 state House districts last month but made no effort to produce a congressional map by the deadline.

Turn to Maps, Page 2



CONNECTICUT

Playbills

from Page 1

Stephanie Fried, the associate vice president of customer relationship management and marketing at The Bushnell, says that recent changes in playbill size and distribution came when the company that published its playbills and also sold advertising for them shifted its focus to all-digital program books.

"Our option with them was to go fully digital, and we couldn't. There's a requirement from the Broadway tours we work with to provide printed cast lists and bios.

"At the same time, we had no shows for over a year and

didn't need the programs." Since The Bushnell reopened in September, it has been producing its own Prompter. Fried calls them "info-only." They consist of the pages of cast listings, credits, biographical blurbs and other content they are contractually obligated to print, provided by the touring shows' producers. There's also a multipage list of Bushnell donors and sponsors and a page of details about services the theater provides. There's no outside advertising. A QR code is available to download The Prompter, but the online version doesn't contain more than the printed one.

The new in-house playbills are not cost-efficient, Fried says. The Bushnell is considering other options, but has committed to printing its playbills this way at least through the fall and probably through the rest of the current season, which ends with the return of "Hamilton" in June/July of 2022.



A selection of recent local theater playbills. They're shrinking, CHRISTOPHER ARNOTT/HARTFORD COURANT

"We learned from the later performances of 'Escape to Margaritaville' and 'The Band's Visit' that we needed to increase our print runs," Fried says. We're cognizant of waste, but it does seem that many people want their own copy of The Prompter and want to keep it after the show.

"The feedback from our ushers and our patrons has been that The Prompters are a part of the theatergoing experience."

TheaterWorks Hartford has always designed its playbills in-house, and have never really used it as an advertising vehicle.

"It's important to us that it have our personal stamp on it," said the theater's director of marketing and communications, Freddie McInerney, who designs the programs herself. "We decided years ago not to sell ads for it."

Traditionally, there's only an ad for Lux Bond & Green jewelers, with whom the theater has had a long relationship, on the back cover of TheaterWorks playbills. Any other ads are usually in acknowledgement of a local business that has helped a specific show, like an eyewear company lending fashionable glasses or a

catering company helping with a kitchen setting.

"Any ads in there, we want to make them count," McInerney says. "If there's just one ad, you remember it."

As at The Bushnell, the pandemic shutdown allowed TheaterWorks a chance to step back and rethink how they did things. "In the spring [of 2020], people didn't want to touch anything," McInerney says, "and we were wondering things like Will they want to use tickets again?' Now people aren't as concerned about touching things, but it began a conversation here.

"I would always worry about how many programs we were printing – the paper and the paper waste. If somebody wants to store their program, save it and take it home, that's great. But recently, maybe from going to restaurants, evervbody seems to have discovered how to use QR codes with their phone," McInernev savs.

TheaterWorks started offering online playbills with this year's outdoor, distanced, production of the eco-conscious play "Walden." There was no negative feedback.

Internally, however, there's an issue of preserving the information longterm: "We haven't yet found a good way to archive our old programs on our website." So saving a print program may still make the most sense for those who want to be reminded of what they've seen.

One area theater has given its printed playbill serious thought and actually decided to expand it. The program for "Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley" at West Hartford's Playhouse on Park contains the obligatory info about the cast and production; 10 pages of listings of those who've given money to support the theater; nearly 20 pages of paid advertising; several pages promoting upcoming shows at the playhouse; a short essay from the director; two pages of facts about Christmas traditions that provide a context for the play, which is set in England in 1815; and a refreshing recipe for Christmas wassail, a cider-based hot drink.

Playhouse on Park's **Executive Director Tracy** Flater makes a strong argument for a robust printed program.

"Businesses like to see themselves in there. Also, the importance of an ad is its shelf life - if you take the program home, that ad is still there to look at."

"We know there are tactile people, or those who don't have technological prowess, who want the printed program," Flater says. There is discussion of a QR-code scanned version of the printed program, but "it's not a priority. For one thing, the playhouse's programs are currently formatted for print and not for QR, which would lead to a clumsy online version."

Ultimately though, the playhouse would like to offer an online playbill option.

"Printing is super-expensive. Everybody's using COVID as the excuse, but some theaters really need to get printing costs under control."

Christopher Arnott can be reached at carnott@ courant.com.



nationwide holiday display contest on ABC's "Live With Kelly

Lights from Page 1

are key to Mark and April Blethen's show, and this year there's a heavy focus on Disney princesses and a castle. There also are animated models, with Mickey and Goofy in a a car.

Previous years have highlighted Minions, the Little Mermaid, Frosty the Snowman and others, sometimes with oversized inflatables, bubble machines or a video projector screening cartoon against the side of a garage.

Last year brought about 3,500 visitors, more than five times better than their first season in 2019.

"People have been great. They space themselves out, if someone wants to take a picture at the entrance everybody waits and gives them room," Blethen said.

If you go: The show at 174 N. Washington St. runs through Dec. 26 on the following schedule: Fridays 6 to 9 p.m., Saturdays 5:30 to 9 p.m., and Sundays 5 to 7 p.m.

Joshua's Christmas Display, Plainville

A massive light show includes a Santa's workshop, a reindeer scene and much more, with movement synced to music that visitors can hear on their car radios at 92.9 FM.

Now in its 10th year, this Plainville light and music show pays tribute to Jill Brunelle, who died in 2011. Her son, Joshua, has been putting on the massive show each Christmas since then, usually adding a few more elements each time.

"My mother loved decorating with us. We always do a big display in the house, and that's where this all started — after my mother passed, we made it a huge display outside," he said.

"It brings a lot of joy to people. I think she definitely would have loved

seeing all the lights."

The display generated 1,400 pounds of food for the Plainville Food Bank last year, and the Brunelle family is hoping to do even better this year. Visitors are also invited to drop off letters to Santa; the family will respond when addresses are provided.

If you go: The show at 15 Hillscrest St. goes daily through Dec. 26 on this schedule: Sundays to Thursdays 5 to p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 5 to 10:30 p.m.

Rosewood, Bristol

For nearly 10 years, Rob and Lori Osenkowski have put up thousands and thousands of lights around thie Rosewood Drive property, then choreographed animation to new and traditional Christmas music that's available to visitors on their radios.

They accept food donations for local food banks, and collect money for Bristol-area families and children facing uncommon hardships. In the past they've generated thousands of dollars for a 6-year-old boy with leukemia and a 4-yearold with kidney cancer.

Carrie Bargainer, a respichildren – Ethan, Brandon and Lilly — by herself after the unexpected death of her 39-year-old husband, Nate, in June.

six finalists.

If you go: The show at 111 Rosewood Drive goes through Dec. 25 and can be seen Mondays through Wednesdays from 5 to 9 p.m. without music, and on Thursdays through Sundays from 5 to 9 p.m. with lights synced to music at 98.3 FM.

Lights on

This year they're seeking to aid the Barganier family. ratory therapist at Bristol Hospital, is raising three

The Osenkowskis this year entered a national competition on ABC's Live With Kelly and Ryan show; their display is among the

Maps

from Page 1

Ten years ago, Democrats and Republicans agreed on General Assembly districts, then deadlocked over the congressional map. The GOP's members pushed for dramatic changes that would have advantaged Republicans in two districts.

A special master was appointed on Dec. 30, 2011 and recommended a new map that was adopted by the court on Feb. 12, 2012, three days before the constitutional deadline for the justices.

The Republican map proposed in 2011 would have moved Bridgeport,

from the 4th District into the 3rd District with New Haven, another Democratic stronghold. It also would have moved New Britain from the 5th into the 1st. The moves would have

the state's largest and over-

whelmingly Democratic city,

made the 4th and the 5th more competitive for Republicans.

Candelora said Republicans have no ambitions about significantly tilting one district their way by drawing new lines.

That does not mean he has given up on smoothing out the awkward shape of the 5th District, which was drawn after Connecticut lost one of its six congressional seats in 2001 and two incumbents had to face off.

fitness program. **Ice**

Now, a group of Simsbury residents are trying to restore the ISCC to its previous glory.

from Page 1

'It used to be a destination internationally," said Adam Westhaver, a local businessman. "We want to bring that back, to put it back on the map."

Westhaver is part of BMW Sports, LLC, a recently formed company also consisting of Kelle Becconsall, a local youth hockey operations director, and Paul Melanson, Farmington police chief and president of Simsbury Youth Hockey. The group closed on a \$5.45 million deal to take over the facility on Nov. 19.

'Myself and [Westhaver] have been working together for quite a few years ... and in the town of Simsbury, the name Melanson is synonymous with hockey," Becconsall said. "So it was kind of a no-brainer trio for us.

"Needless to say, we're taking 'hockey parents' to the highest level.

One can quickly sense the former grandeur of the cavernous facility located just off of Route 202. The ISCC boasts two ice rinks, one NHL-sized and the other Olympic, a pro shop and a café that has long been closed.

Upstairs is a weight room and ballet space, where the world's figure skaters used to train, as well as additional space leased to a youth

role in the area's hockey and skating ecosystem, even though the stars have left. It hosts Connecticut Northern Lights Girls Hockey and Simsbury Youth Hockey, among other programs. Northwest Catholic and Simsbury High Schools play and practice there.

In all, over 40 hockey teams use the facility. Charter Oak Figure Skating Club, the go-to community for skaters in north-central Connecticut, uses the ISCC as its home rink.

The facility has vast potential, the BMW Sports team says, but it's in need of large capital investments. And they've gotten to work auickly.

The group immediately spent over \$30,000 on a commercial-sized water heater for the bathrooms, showers and ice maintenance. The previous heater, though functional, was "drastically undersized" to adequately handle all 10 of the facility's locker rooms.

They've upgraded basic amenities: New lights were recently installed in the lobby, and the bathrooms got a long-overdue deep cleaning.

Their top priority is getting the ice quality to world-class standards.

Ask a figure skater — any skater — and they'll tell you: It's all about the ice, especially when you're coming down from a tricky Salchow $jump.\,BMW\,Sports\,members$ say the ice at the ISCC has received inconsistent main-

tenance over the years, The ISCC still plays a vital resulting in a bumpy surface. The group has leased a

new ice resurfacer, a late 2000s Olympia, which will help ensure a cleaner cut between skate sessions. They've also brought in new staff, including a partnership with people with experience maintaining ice at Hartford's XL Center.

"The good news is that some very simple improved maintenance practices, compared to how it was going in years past ... will bring the ice to the quality that it once was," Becconsall said.

The ISCC is already immensely popular with area skaters, but Becconsall and her team hope that the return of elite skating conditions will begin to attract the world's best once again. The local figure skating community isn't the size it used to be, Becconsall said, but she has hope it can grow with more support.

That would have a knock-on effect on other elements of the building, like the infrequently used weight room and ballet

space, and even the café. Beccansall said people used to come in to get lunch at the café, situated in between the two rinks, just to watch the figure skaters practice. That too has stopped, and the café has been closed since the beginning of the pandemic.

The BMW team is optimistic, in part because they inherit a revenue stream that is in vibrant financial health. "If I'm worried about anything it's about not having enough ice, enough hours to sell," Becconsall said. The facility generates

'significant operating revenues," according to Robert DeCrescenzo, Simsbury town attorney, and can sustain itself on those revenues alone. BMW Sports secured a

mortgage commitment with Windsor Federal Savings. Based on the bank's underwriting, and DeCrescenzo analysis of the group's fiveyear plan projecting operating expenses, the Simsbury Board of Selectmen agreed to assign them the ground lease and complete the acquisition.

"It's a facility that has not gotten the investment it needs in order to keep it viable going forward," said Eric Wellman, Simsbury first selectman. "And here we have a group of local families that's interested in taking it over and investing in it, making this facility what the community wants it to be, and we're very excited about that."

It's been a lot of hard work and a lot of long days - especially for the group's children, who have been unwittingly commissioned to help clean, mop and lay down paint. But for the group, it's worth it.

"We're doing it for the town, the people, the kids," Westhaver said. "You come in here on a Saturday and see the smiles on the kids' faces ... that's success, that's what does it."

"Every day is like Christmas," Melanson said. "I get to come to the rink."

PETS UP FOR ADOPTION



Gracie

racie is purrfection! If you are looking for a friendly and affectionate love bug, she may be your girl! She loves her catnip mice, mealtime and just being nearby, she's great company! If you'd like to learn more about this adorable 1 year old, please contact Our Companions at 860-242-9999 or email Helpline@OurCompanions.org.



Leo

eo is a very friendly sweet little fellow. He was escued along with his siblings with no mother to be found. If interested, call AFOC at 860-693-0303 for more info.

For more information or to submit a pet for adoption, please email pets@courant.com.

Please include a photo, a description of the pet including age and personality, and contact information including an email address and a phone number.



Elsa

lsa came to Cat Tales from a basement in Portland, along with her three 8-week-old kittens, none of them having had much contact with humans. All her kittens have progressed and been adopted and now it's Elsa's turn. She has come a very long way from her first few weeks with her Foster parents, going from being a "frozen" kitty to one who just can't get enough attention. She gets along with the other cats but is ready for her forever home. She has so much love to give, please consider coming to meet her! No dogs. No children. Call 860-344-9043 or go to CatTalesCT.org/cats/Elsa-2. Email: info@CatTalesCT.org.





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NOW PLAYING Reviews of movies showing in theaters or streaming online

'BEING THE RICARDOS': Aaron Sorkin's "Being the Ricardos" opens with confusion and ends with a fizzle, two appropriate bookends for this messy biopic about Lucille Ball that never lands on exactly what it is that it wants to say about the legendary TV woman and her famous TV marriage. Folks have already looked askance at star Nicole Kidman in a mask of frozen-looking makeup, playing the famously expressive Lucy, and at Javier Bardem taking on the role of the sleek Cuban bandleader Desi Arnaz, but the acting is not the problem, not by a long shot. In fact, the actors are the best part of this otherwise poorly executed film, which actively works against whatever insights it may have wanted to impart about Lucy, Desi and their influential TV show. 2:05. $1\frac{1}{2}$ stars. — *Katie Walsh*, Tribune News Service

'C'MON C'MON': Joaquin Phoenix has never been more engaging than he is in "C'mon C'mon." The four-time Oscar nominee (and one-time winner) is at his warmest and most personable - characteristics not usually associated with the actor — in Mike Mills' bighearted drama, in which he plays a radio journalist working on a project about the way children see the world. Phoenix has been a steady presence in American film since he starred in "Space Camp" 35 years ago, but in "C'mon C'mon," he shows a range and level of humanity that he has rarely showed before. His performance isn't a revelation, but rather a reconfirmation that he's one of the very best talents working in movies today. And "C'mon C'mon" is a lovely showcase for him. Mills, with just his fourth

film (and first since 2016's "20th Century Women"), paints an affectionate, poetic portrait of youth and wisdom, in a world where everybody is just trying to figure things out for themselves. Adults don't have the answers any more than kids do, but they're grown so they get to make most of the decisions. And hopefully the ones they make are correct. 1:49. 3 1/2 stars. — Adam Graham, Detroit News

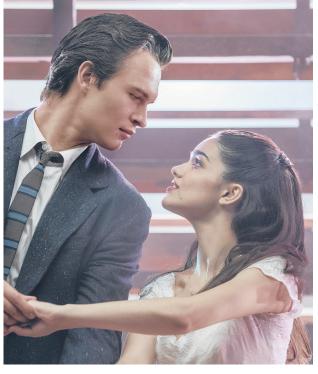
'ENCANTO': The latest Disney Animation film, "Encanto," sweeps audiences away to a colorful, enchanted world of Colombian magical realism, introducing the Madrigal family, who have each been granted extraordinary gifts, except one, our heroine, Mirabel (Stefanie Beatriz), who has yet to discover her own personal magic. The Madrigal family magic was borne out of extreme trauma and pain, when matriarch Abuela Alma (Maria Cecilia Botero) lost her husband while fleeing violence in their village. In desperation, she cried out for protection for herself and her infant triplets, and a magical candle raised mountains around a charmed casita, where she's raised her family since. Each Madrigal receives a gift in a coming of age ceremony, whether it's super strength, high-powered hearing, talking to animals, spinning flowers out of thin air, shape-shifting, future divining, weather controlling or food healing. The only exception to the magical rule so far is the sweet, smart Mirabel, who never received her gift, and has since felt like the family outcast, bending over backward to earn her place among them. As she starts to see cracks in the foundation of their beloved casita. Mirabel probes deeper in to the family's magic and ultimately realizes that all of her family members are caught in the trap of perfectionism, believing that they have to use their gifts in the ways others want them to, without remaining authentic to themselves and their desires. 1:39. 3 stars. — *Katie* Walsh

'HOUSE OF GUCCI': For director Ridley Scott, "House of Gucci" is an entertaining if dramatically thin return to the factbased machinations of the rich, famous and weaselly. Sometimes they're criminal underworld tales, such as "American Gangster" (2007); other times, as with the 2017 Getty kidnapping account "All the Money in the World," they're criminality-adjacent, more about the ruthlessness of the crazv-rich. This movie's a bit of both. It's bit-of-both in other ways, too, swinging from straight-faced drama to opera buffa extravagance. Lady Gaga, representing the former, co-stars with, among others, Jared Leto (the latter). However, Gaga's the star and driver in "House of Gucci." The high-gloss and even higher-fashion festival of backstabbing stars Gaga as the woman whose controversial business practices after marrying into the Gucci fashion dynasty included hiring a hit man to deal with her pesky, cheating husband. 2:37. 2 ½ stars. – Michael Phillips, Chicago Tribune

'LICORICE PIZZA': Gary Valentine is almost famous. This enterprising hustler parlays his demi-fame into a kind of accidentalon-purpose mystique, that of a 15-year-old LA whiz kid, with one foot in the Industry as a child actor

and the other in whatever he's cooking up at the moment. "Licorice Pizza," writer-director Paul Thomas Anderson's gloriously hazy hangout of a movie, starts from the premise of this San Fernando Valley high schooler putting his idea of "the moves" on 25-yearold Alana. She works as a photographer's assistant. He first spies her when he's in line for picture day. Their queasy age difference makes Gary's ardor, in Alana's eyes, a foolish delusion. Yet Alana — as played, indelibly, by Alana Haim of the Grammy-nominated sisters band Haim — finds herself weirdly charmed by this boy/man. Pretty soon she's hanging out with his friends, accompanying him as an adult chaperon on a movie promotional trip to New York, all the while yearning for her own niche in life with actual adults. 2:13. 3 1/2 stars. — *Michael* Phillips

'THE POWER OF THE DOG': The gorgeous Otago region of New Zealand makes for one hell of a 1925 Montana in "The Power of the Dog," the first feature written and directed by Jane Campion since "Bright Star" 12 years ago. This adaptation of the 1967 Thomas Savage novel is worth seeing, and arguing with, for several reasons. It's a chamber Western, focused on four main characters, and those warring personalities are played by the exactly right quartet of Benedict Cumberbatch, Kirsten Dunst, Jesse Plemons and Kodi Smit-McPhee. The environment these forlorn souls call home works like a spacious dream of the Old West, shortly after it has given way to 20th century notions of progress. For Campion, the personifications of Western heroism



Ansel Elgort as Tony and Rachel Zegler as Maria in director Steven Spielberg's "West Side Story." NIKO TAVERNISE/20TH **CENTURY FOX**

and toughness are practically indistinguishable from their own nightmarish distortions. "The Power of the Dog" lays out this theme pretty bluntly, in a story that can feel a mite thin. It's also well worth your time because it imagines the time, place and people it's about so intriguingly. Campion, cinematographer Ari Wegner, the entire design team knew what they wanted. And got it. 2:06. 3 stars. Streaming on Netflix. — Michael Phillips

'WEST SIDE STORY': Purists can relax and put their smelling salts away. The vibrant new "West" Side Story" hasn't been updated, or relocated. It's still a resident of Upper West Side Manhattan in the late 1950s, in the vicinity of what used to be called Lincoln Square and San Juan Hill. But director Steven Spielberg and screenwriter Tony Kushner have made sharp, often arresting sense of original librettist

Arthur Laurents' material, born on Broadway in 1957. Jerome Robbins' dances helped make the Broadway musical a prestige success; the score by Leonard Bernstein and a newcomer named Stephen Sondheim didn't hurt, either. The 1961 movie, dutiful, square and pretty dull as cinema though full of performance felicities, took care of the smash-hit part of the show's reputation. Whatever this new adaptation's popular reception, it's five times the movie the '61 movie was. Spielberg has never made a musical before, but this one looks and feels like the work of an Old Hollywood master of the form - someone who knows when, where and why to move a camera capturing bodies in rhythmic motion. 2:36. 3 ½ stars. Michael Phillips

RATINGS: The movies listed are rated according to the following key: 4 stars, excellent; 3 stars, good; 2 stars, fair; 1 star, poor.

CELEBRITIES

Stallone returns to TV for mob drama

From news services

Before his big breakout role in "Rocky," Sylvester Stallone survived as a young actor making guest appearances on TV shows such as "Kojak" and "Police Story."

The Academy Awardwinning actor is now heading back to the silver screen as a star and executive producer on a new mob drama for Paramount+ called 'Kansas City.'

The show will feature Stallone as a present-day New York City mobster named Sal, who is forced to relocate to Kansas City and reestablish his Italian mafia family in the straight-laced Midwest

No other co-stars have been named, and no production or release dates have been announced.

Taylor Sheridan, the co-creator of the Paramount Network's popular Western series "Yellowstone" staring Kevin Costner, is reportedly on board as an executive producer. Terence Winter, a writer and producer for HBO's "The Sopranos" and the creator of "Boardwalk Empire," is set to serve as an executive producer and the series' showrunner.

"Taylor is a prolific creator because of the multidimensional characters he creates and the complex worlds he builds," David Glasser, the CEO of production company 101 Studios, said in a statement. "To be able to have the legendary, transcendent Sylvester playing one of these characters is truly a privilege. And on top of that, we have Terence producing the project with us, who is responsible for some of the most captivating, deeply respected television shows in history."

Filmmaker Wertmueller **dies:** Italy's provocative filmmaker Lina Wertmuel-



Sylvester Stallone is set to star in a new mob drama called Kansas City." **STEVEN M. FALK/PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER**

ler, 93, whose potent mix of sex and politics in "Swept Away" and "Seven Beauties" made her the first woman nominated for an Academy Award for directing, has died, the Culture Ministry said. Wertmueller, who won a lifetime achievement Oscar in 2019, died in Rome surrounded by her family, the LaPresse news agency reported,

quoting her relatives. Culture Minister Dario Franceschini paid tribute to Wertmueller recently, saying her "class and unmistakable style" had left its mark on Italian and world cinema.

Political, controversial and often erotic, her films were filled with social commentary and satirical anti-establishment messages. Wertmueller, who also wrote the scripts for her films, described them as Marxist comedies.

'I refuse to make films without social themes," Wertmueller said.

Diggs, Byer to host Critics Choice Awards: The **Critics Choice Association** has announced that actor Taye Diggs and comedian Nicole Byer will co-host the 27th annual Critics Choice Awards, which air Jan. 9 on The CW and TBS.

"This is definitely going to be the best Critics Choice Awards show ever," said Joey Berlin, the association's CEO. "Imagine Taye and Nicole up in front of a big, beautiful room full of all the biggest stars in film and television ... It's going to be a blast!"

Dec. 13 birthdays: Actor Dick Van Dyke is 96. Actor John Davidson is 80. Singer Ted Nugent is 73. Musician Randy Owen is 72. Actor Wendie Malick is 71. Actor Steve Buscemi is 64. Actor Jamie Foxx is 54. Musician Tom DeLonge is 46. Actor James Kyson Lee is 46. Singer Amy Lee is 40. Actor Marcel Spears is 33. Singer Taylor Swift is 32.

ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Pandemic puts extra stress on holiday visits

your own protection from

obviously, any variants will

affect your risk assessment

member, you could explain

the COVID-19 virus (and

If you don't want to

visit this elderly family

and behavior).

Dear Amy: My husband and I (ages 55 and 62) have followed CDC guidelines throughout the pandemic: masking, social distancing, limiting time in stores, etc. We have kept very much to ourselves.

Only after being vaccinated did we return to socializing with other vaccinated couples, taking short trips and enjoying occasional indoor dining.

My dilemma is this: I have an elderly unvaccinated family member who is complaining that I haven't been to see them since last spring.

They, however, are regularly visiting with other unvaccinated family members. All of these family members have in fact had COVID-19. On the one hand, I do feel bad that I have not been to see them, but on the other hand, I haven't wanted to take unnecessary risks.

This person wants me to visit during the holiday, inside their very small apartment (it is too cold to get together outside), and without masks (the family member is very hearing impaired).

Because I am vaxxed and boostered, am I being too stringent?

I'm also trying to sort through how upset I am at their refusal to get vaccinated and how this plays into my feelings about visiting.

— Struggling to Navigate

Dear Struggling: I don't have the right — or the medical expertise — to assess your specific health this family member under the circumstances you describe. You seem confident in

risk regarding visiting with

to them that you won't be visiting because they aren't vaccinated, and you don't want to risk exposing them to the virus. (If this person has actually had the illness,

to believe that they carry some immunity.) Or you could tell them the truth: "I'm so upset with you for not getting vaccinated. I'm very disappointed, and it makes me not want to visit with you right now. This is a conse-

they would have reason

Dear Amy: I've known "Christopher" since 2008. We dated for about a

quence of your choice, and

I'm very sorry."

year and broke up after a big fight, but we've stayed in touch on and off over the

Christopher is a retired, disabled veteran of the Iraq War.

After our breakup in 2009, he called me to share with me that he had severe PTSD, and he shared the very traumatic event that contributed to his PTSD. I was floored and heartbro-

At that time, I made the (horrible) decision to share that conversation with my mother and my sister.

I now realize that I had no business sharing that with anyone and have kept it private ever since.

Now, Christopher is planning to travel across the country with me to spend Christmas with my

mother and sister. Should I tell him that my mother and sister know what happened in the war? I'm afraid that if I tell

him that they know, he may decide not to come. He feels ashamed of this event, and he handled

himself like a true soldier. - Betrayed his Trust Dear Betrayed: You should

tell "Christopher" the truth about your disclosure to these family members. You can tell him that you did so early on, when you were searching for support.

He has been extremely honest and vulnerable with you, and you should be brave enough to be honest with him now. You must also accept the confusion and consequences flowing from your honesty.

Dear Amy: Like so many others, I have fretted over not receiving any acknowledgment from grandchildren when giving gifts.

This year I have decided to send a nice card, telling them how blessed I am to have them in our very special family and that their gift is a donation in their name — to a local charity (and then name the charity).

This has been a "win-win" for me. I am no longer so disappointed about no "thank you."

The charity receives a nice donation, and the grandchild knows that they are loved and remembered.

– A Happy Granny

Dear Happy: Yes!

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Will Smith puts his fears to the test in TV nature series

By Mark Kennedy **Associated Press**

Will Smith rappelled into a live volcano and kavaked down an Icelandic whitewater river for his latest project. But he wasn't making an action movie. It was personal.

The Hollywood leading man, who admits that he's far from outdoorsy, has put himself in danger's way while filming "Welcome to Earth," a kinetic Disney+ original series from National Geographic. He was intimidated, but that brought clarity.

'It's really difficult to enjoy things if you're scared," he says. "I think the ability to see how beautiful things are is directly connected to your openness to it and fear closes you down."

The six-part series that recently debuted finds the actor donning scuba gear to dive in an underground lake, crossing a raging, crocodile-infested river on a rope and sitting still in the stifling Namibia desert to capture a lizard eating a bug.

Throughout is Smith's authenticity, sweetness and humor. After making a difficult crossing that surprises even him, he notes: "In a movie, my stunt man would have did

A self-described West Philly boy who says he was once scared of everything and hated water, Smith learns to read the rapids while whitewater rafting, rescues turtles near the Great Barrier Reef and goes 3,000 feet below the sea in a deep-water submersible.

Smith, 53, says the series came at a time in his life when he was opening up to nature. "Of course, I got to do it the way I got to do it, and it's the way National Geographic does it," he says, laughing. "That part



Will Smith, center, in "Welcome to Earth." DISNEY+

works really well with my personality.

Dr. Albert Lin, an engineer and explorer who has uncovered lost cities previously for National Geographic, was stunned to find that Smith was able to control his fears even in the face of real danger.

While scuba diving in the underground lake, Smith had trouble with his buoyancy, and Lin watched him "dropping at a rate that felt like maybe we wouldn't see him again." But Smith was able to control his mind and grapple with the situation.

"I respected Will Smith, the actor, before, but now I definitely have grown to truly respect Will Smith, the human being, now," says Lin, who grew up watching Smith in "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" and was overjoyed to go camping and exploring with him.

"This really was a personal journey for him," adds Lin. "He just wanted to know what was on planet Earth and feel it and really push himself."

Produced by Oscarnominated filmmaker Darren Aronofsky, the series carries on the tradition of National Geographic pushing the exploring envelope and embracing the latest in

technology to help us understand our world.

"I hope that this becomes a portal for so many people out there to just get a sense of absolutely how incredible our planet is," says Lin. "The way that the old magazines - the old yellow-bordered magazines - used to do it for a lot of us growing up, I hope this becomes something of that caliber and is meaningful to others. To me, that would feel like mission accomplished."

Part of the series's sense of freshness comes from the fact that Smith isn't told what the plan is on a particular day out in the wilderness. "When I hit the ground, I have no idea what we're doing," he says.

The experts he's paired with teach him about speed, smell and sound and the colors out there he might miss. "You can't really want to protect something that you don't understand. And you can't want to protect something that you can't recognize as beautiful," Smith says.

"My job now is to see it and feel it and understand it. You know, it's making this phase of my life that much more enjoyable and opening me up to wonder and awe in a way that is just absolutely delightful."

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): This morning dawns speedily as your goals put the day's focus on your achievements. You can expect the pace toward your future to pick up at the office or wherever it is vou go to work - even if it's at home.

Taurus (April 20-Mav 20): Go ahead and start thinking in global terms. This is a terrific time to broaden the scope of your life! Whether you decide to do some actual traveling or to research as an armchair explorer, make an effort to expose yourself to new concepts and ways of being.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Get ready to start thinking on the level of Sherlock Holmes today. This dramatic transit may make things feel more like a detective novel than real life, with countless layers to look through. While there might be a lot of lines to read between, don't let them completely obscure the facts of reality.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Someone, or some very specific people, could be about to start playing a much larger role in your life. Turn up the volume on your most important connections. This is about more than simply romantic relationships — it covers any type of partnership, including platonic ones.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22):

Things are about to pick up at work, so get ready to roll up your sleeves and put your nose to the grindstone! Bring a lot of energy and action to your daily life. You should get ready for co-workers to bring more issues to your door, but there's no reason you can't solve them all.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You're being called to focus on fun, Virgo. Today your passionate love puts you in the mood to round out the year on a very positive note. This is a great time to pursue matters of the heart, so do whatever brings you joy. A project could earn you some time in the spotlight!

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your attention could be centered on your home for the next couple of weeks. Don't be shocked if it seems almost impossible to find any quiet time under your roof, since it's highly probable that there's going to be more activity in your domestic environment. Consider hosting some events.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): The pace picks up, reminding you of all the things happening around you. This energy should feel very natural — but you might need to prepare yourself for a lot more appointments than you've had in quite a while. If you've got a message — go ahead and share it.

21): Money may be on your mind at the moment, helping you cut through the fog and deal with any mundane matters clamoring for your attention. This

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec.

is one of the best times of the year for increasing your financial standing if you use your mind to improve your situation.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You're likely putting on your thinking cap right now! Everything is probably going to seem much clearer, like a picture coming into focus — in return, you may have quite a lot of things to say about what you see. You're coming up with these possibilities for a reason.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Life may feel like you've tuned in to a strange radio program. Everything could seem rather foggy during this time, as though you just didn't get enough sleep to process information during the day, so make an effort to be gentle with yourself as needed. It's a good period to get creative and see what comes of it!

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): It's time to connect. If you've lost touch with any important people in your life, then now is the perfect moment to start fixing that! Make a point to check in with everyone and see what they've been up to chances are good you'll discover some very information from a friend.

TODAY IN **HISTORY**

Associated Press

On Dec. 13, 1928, George Gershwin's "An American in Paris" premiered at Carnegie Hall in New York.

In 1937, the Chinese city of Nanjing fell to Japanese forces during the

Sino-Japanese War; what followed was a massacre of war prisoners, soldiers and citizens.

In 1978, the Philadelphia Mint began stamping the Susan B. Anthony dollar, which went into circulation the following July.

In 2000, Republican George W. Bush claimed the presidency a day after the U.S. Supreme

Court shut down further recounts of disputed ballots in Florida; Democrat Al Gore conceded, delivering a call for national unity.

In 2019, the House Judiciary Committee approved two articles of impeachment accusing President Donald Trump of abuse of power in his dealings with Ukraine and obstruction of Congress.





10 Things You Might Not **Know About Nearly Everything**

contains a plethora of tidbits and trivia that will appeal to everyone, from history buffs to sports fans to foodies. From lighthearted topics such as misspellings and extreme eating, to serious subjects such as WWII and prison, this book leaves readers brighter and wittier than ever before.



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A cardigan worn by a man is sometimes called a mandigan.

FACT #147

When someone uses chitchat, noises, or mannerisms to distract or mislead an opponent during poker or another game, it's called "coffeehousing."

FACT #178

Genuphobia is the fear of knees.

FACT #238

Actress Marilyn Monroe colored her hair using a shade of blond called dirty pillow slip.

Before Sir Thomas More was beheaded in 1535, he moved his lengthy beard aside, saying it "had never committed any

FACT #302

Tweety Bird, the animated Looney Tunes character, was originally pink. But censors complained that Tweety looked naked, so animators gave the bird yellow feathers.

FACT #408

Joe Charbonneau, a Belvedere, Ill., native, who played outfield for the Cleveland Indians in the early '80s, used to open beer bottles with his eye socket and drink beer through a straw in his nose.

When actor Clint Eastwood ran for mayor of Carmel, California, in 1986, a major issue was ice cream. Town leaders had banned the sale of ice cream cones, incensing Eastwood and his supporters. They won and overturned the ordinance.

Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz









MUST

BE THE BATTERY.

Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau









Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly





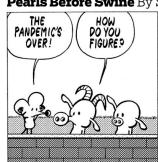
Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker

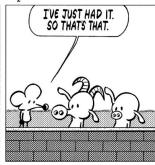


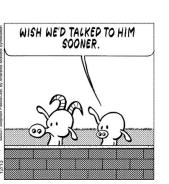




Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis













Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt







Jump Start By Robb Armstrong







Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley









Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



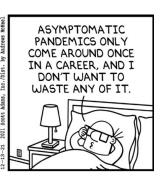




Dilbert By Scott Adams



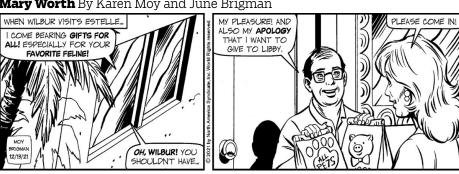




Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin



Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman



Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty





Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley













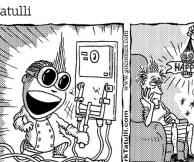


I KNOW, WHEELY BAD,

RIGHT?

Lio By Mark Tatulli







Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker





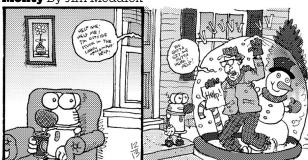


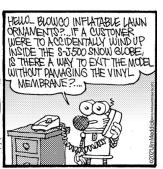
Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price





Monty By Jim Meddick





5 Modern food

Old horse

apt fruit

10 Foundation

11 Courageous

item

"Step

Prophet

amount

26 Per-hour

12

15

18

24

concern, briefly

"Am not!" reply

Drink replacing

"mar" with an

Balance sheet

"Outta my way!"

Take a break

25 Old West vehicle

"Semper Fi" org.

Electrical job

For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston

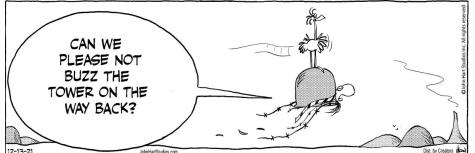








B.C. By Hart



Beetle Bailey by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker





Hi & Lois By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne



Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne





Non Sequitur By Wiley Miller







Curtis By Ray Billingsley









Pickles By Brian Crane









Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman







Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer





Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters





CROSSWORD

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across

- 1 To__ her own Work on, as a bone
- Swedish pop group
- Pond plant with floating "pads"
- "West Side Story" heroine
- Golf scorecard numbers
- TV Mister with a 'neighborhood'
- MADD ads, e.g.
- Achy from 20 exercise
- Italian halfdozen The "L" in "SNL"
- 22 Regular cybersecurity
- measure Thurman on
- screen
- Crumpets drink
- 30 Enjoy a meal
- 31 Fulfill fully 33 Things best
- not all put in one basket? 36 Ocean
- levels Agatha
- Christie play set in Egypt 43 Identify as yours, as
- baggage 44 College sports org.
- Man or Wight 46 Spanish
- aunt 48 First-aid set
- 50 Cell pic taker 51 Selfinflicted
- tennis mistake 57 Get close to 58 Charlemagne's
- domain, for short Disney exec Robert

- 61 Painter of limp
- watches 62 Like a nonfunctioning
 - vending machine, or what the circled letters are, in two wavs
- 66 Memorable lioness Performance sometimes seen
- through glasses 68 German
- article 69 Rod partner
- "Jurassic Park" menace, briefly "Halt!"

Down

- Santa helper
- 2 Broadcasts spouse
- Hercules
- 3 Antony's last
- Monster slain by
- undoing 37 Cast doubt on
- 28 Hammering tool 32 Opinion piece Health 34
 - supplements co.
 - 35 Vampire's
- - transmitter
- 63 Mined resource Obsolescent document

38 Scat legend Fitzgerald

39 Apparently are

barely beat

Palmer, e.g.

Author Zora __

Beneath

Hurston

53 True-__test

54 Explode

56

in rage

55 Try to stop

family

Nevada

Shrek and

60 City sometimes mistaken for

the capital of

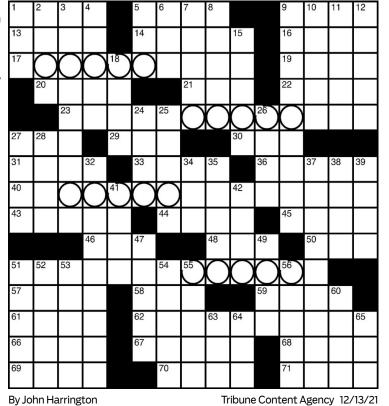
Sneezing sound

Emerson, Lake &

41 Mideast ruler

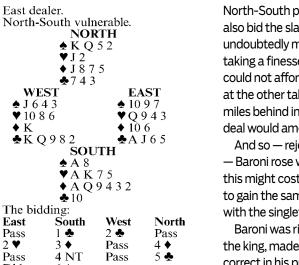
42 Win by a __:

65 One ab crunch, say



BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER



Famous hand

Pass

4 NT

Opening lead - king of clubs.

Dble

This deal was played in the U.S.-Italy world championship match in 1951. It was Board No. 185 of the 320-board match and the Italians were very far behind at the time.

Paolo Baroni was South for Italy, and Mario Franco was North.

Baroni started with an artificial one-club bid and wound up in six diamonds after a somewhat mystifying series of bids by both

West led the king of clubs followed by the queen, ruffed by declarer.

The fate of the hand now depended on avoiding a trump loser, so Baroni led a spade to the queen and returned the jack of diamonds.

East falsecarded with the ten to encourage a finesse, but despite this, Baroni went up with the ace, caught the king and so made the slam!

Explaining his anti-percentage play, Baroni said he thought that the American

3

4

North-South pair at the other table would also bid the slam and that South would undoubtedly make the normal play of taking a finesse in the trump suit. Baroni could not afford to duplicate the result at the other table, because his team was miles behind in the match, and a tie on the deal would amount to standing still.

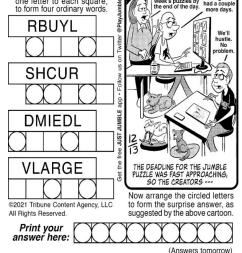
And so — rejecting the percentage play — Baroni rose with the ace, realizing that this might cost him 1,470 points but hoping to gain the same amount by finding West with the singleton king.

Baroni was right on all counts! He caught the king, made the slam, and was also correct in his prediction of what would occur at the other table. Sure enough, the American South got to six diamonds and went down one when he took the trump finesse.

Tomorrow: Bid better, play better.

JUMBLE BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles one letter to each square to form four ordinary words



Jumbles: WHINE

TODAY'S SUDOKU

	- 1	_							.,		• • • •	٠		~
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	J	'				U		8	3	2	7	9	6	ı
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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

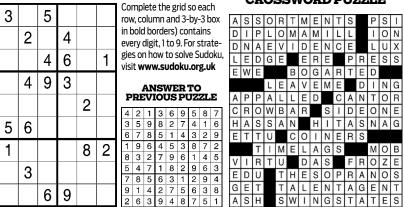
When the colt showed off his art skills by

sketching his sister, it was - HORSE-DRAWN

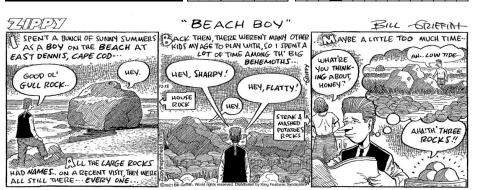
APART

SCRIPT

NOBODY



Saturday's



An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at **PlayJumble.com**



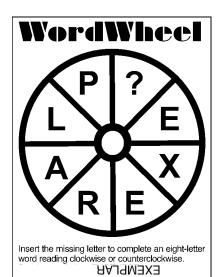
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SUDOKU

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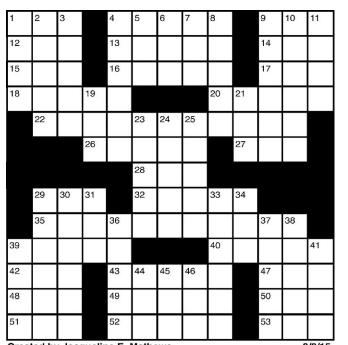
WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: tip of the tongue



TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS Ashley, to Mary-Kate Martin and Cain
- 9 Role on "Black-ish"
- 12 Defunct airline __ ease; nervous
- 14 E-mail provider for millions 15 Monogram for Pooh's creator 16 Actress Verdugo
- 17 Actress Panabaker
- 18 Shininess 20 Marcia of "Desperate
- Housewives"
 22 Role on "Castle"
 26 USNA freshman
- 27 Bell and Barker
- 28 Role on "How I Met Your Mother" "__ You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?"
- 32 "Without a
- 35 Actress on "Last Man Standing" 39 French farewell
- 40 Role on "M*A*S*H"
- 42 Tax-collecting agcy.
- 43 Davis or Midler 47 __-Wan Kenobi

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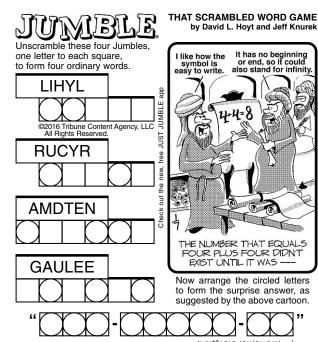
- 48 Neckwear for Don Ho
- no __; uselessly _ It Be"; Beatles song 49 To no _
- 51 Actress Laura __ Giacomo 52 Actor Sam
- 53 Mrs. in Mexico

DOWN

- 1 Male deer _ the Line"; hit song for Johnny "__ th
- 3 American __; Pago Pago's
- location 4 Actor Vin
- 5 Perpendicular building wing Tavern order
- 7 Fabray, to friends 8 Robert ___ of "Unsolved Mysteries"
- 9 Ms. Fanning
- 10 Rump __; cuts of beef 11 Actor Ron and his family 19 Engine additive touted as "The
- Racer's Edge" 21 American rock band
- 23 Mrs. Rubble
- 24 "Siskel & __" 25 Fragrant wood 29 Mitchell or McArdle
- 30 "A __ in the Sun"; movie for Sidney Poitier
- 31 180° from WSW 33 Steve of "The Office"
- 34 Actress Longoria
- 36 Gloria Estefan or Desi Arnaz, Sr. 37 Kelly Clarkson and Carrie
- Underwood 38 Curved sword
- 39 Has a bug
- 41 Actress Moreno 44 Arden or Plumb
- 46
- 45 Skater __ Babilonia _ Death"; sitcom for Brad Garrett

JUMBLE

tip of the tongue



The number that equals four plus four didn't exist until it was - "CRE-EIGHT-ED"

Jumbles: HILLY CURRY TANDEM LEAGUE TREATMENT

TA

A|R|E

E I N

Р

0 N C

| L | I |

S|E|C|R|E|T

Е В В

I E R S TOPPLE

DUDE

|B|E|R|T|H

ARROW WORDS

2

3

5

6

|O|W|B| | R

ATONE

G

E R S A T Z

S A M P L E R

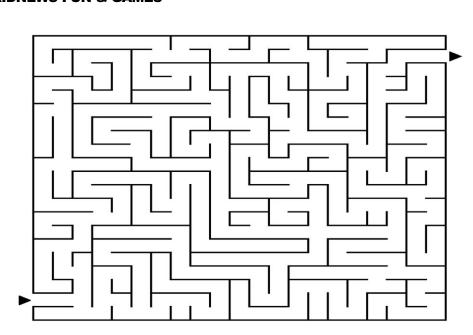
H|O|D

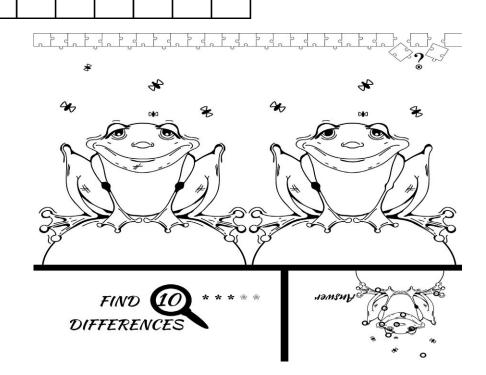
W E B

Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble the letters in the circles to reveal a mystery word

		e circles									<u></u>	
Ancient Peruvian		Used a broom	V	Assumed as fact	٧	Hubbub	•	Colorado ski resort	V	Around	.	One up Scrooge cry
								Union foe	\	•		V
Anne Murray hit song		Dessert wine		Record keeper		Marsh growth		Kind of bread Runner-up in 1996	A			
\		(C)			$\bigcup_{i=1}^n$		Ship's bunk	-				
Embroidered alphabet	Make up Young hooter	•					Former Except	Á	(S)			News subjec
-			Tops		"Chicago" lyricist	1			Subsist Large- scale	•		\
Mortar porter Part of WWW	\		•	Informer	Type of ranch Pen	\			V	For each one	Tell tall tales	
			\bigcirc	•	•	Knock over	$ \bigcirc^{5} $			V	V	
Tool kit tool Fake	•						Peaceful protest	•				
Shabby						Hush- hush	-			\bigcirc		
2019 Knigh	nt Features. I	Distributed by	y Tribune Co	ntent Agency								10/27/

KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES





9

8

SPORTS

COURANT.COM/SPORTS

CHARGERS 37, GIANTS 21

Hapless Giants no match for Chargers

QB Herbert sparkles in dominant performance

By Pat Leonard New York Daily News

INGLEWOOD, Calif. — There was a generational talent on the field with the Giants on Sunday.

His name was Justin Herbert. The Chargers' quarterback was the best player the Giants have faced all year. They had no answer for his cannon arm in a 37-21 loss at SoFi Stadium, the \$5 billion palace that will host Super Bowl LVI in February.

"He's going to be one of the best quarterbacks in the league for a long time," Giants QB Mike Glennon said, "because there's just not many guys on this planet that can throw the ball like that."

Herbert's talent was on display in all its glory on a jaw-dropping 59-yard TD pass to Jalen Guyton with 17 seconds to go before halftime

The throw traveled 63 yards in the air from LA's 34-yard line to the Giants' 3. There was no excuse for safeties Logan Ryan and Xavier McKinney getting beaten over the top, but they didn't know what hit them.

"It's just very frustrating," Ryan said. "I'm frustrated with myself. You have to make split-second decisions as a pro athlete, and I didn't make the right one there. I'm frustrated for my teammates, I'm frustrated for my coaches. We practiced that play. We were prepared for that play, and I just didn't make that play. It's on us, it's on me. I'm frustrated, but the kid's got (an) arm and he ripped it down the middle of our defense."

Ryan said "95%" of quarterbacks can't make that throw.

"It's rare," he said. "I thought I was in a spot to go steal it and he put it on a rope. You don't see that every day ... (But) I feel like I let a lot of people down with that."

Saquon Barkley, Dave Gettleman's "generational" running back, meanwhile came up small in another game the Giants needed him to star in to have a chance.

Turn to Giants, Page 2



Los Angeles Chargers running back Austin Ekeler is tackled by New York Giants nose tackle Austin Johnson during the second half Sunday in Inglewood, Calif. **ASHLEY LANDIS/AP**



Emily Sweeney of USA smiles in the finish area after the women's race at the Luge World Championships in Koenigssee, Germany last January.

ANDREAS SCHAAD/AP

OLYMPICS

No sliding backward now

After a bad crash, missed competitions, Suffield Olympic luge athlete perseveres

By Lori Riley Hartford Courant

Over the last dozen years, Olympic luge athlete Emily Sweeney has been a study in persever-

In 2012 at the age of 16, she lost the last spot on the U.S. team to her older sister Megan in a raceoff in Norway. She didn't make the Olympic team in 2014. She finally made the cut in 2018 only to suffer a horrific crash on her final run in South Korea where she broke two bones in her back and sprained her ankle badly.

Sweeney, who grew up in Suffield, is 28 years old and is trying to make the Olympic team once again, and this year was no easier than any other. Last month, she didn't perform well in the first World Cup on the Olympic track

in Yanquin, China. She was unable to compete in the last two World Cups on back-to-back weekends in Sochi because she is part of the National Guard's World Class Athlete Program (WCAP) and as an active military personnel member, she was not allowed in

Sweeney made the best of it. She remained in Germany and was able to get some track time in Winterberg and Oberhof with one of the German "B" teams and finished fifth in Saturday's World

Cup in Altenberg, Germany.

She became the first U.S. woman to earn a top-five finish this year, which puts her in good shape to make the U.S. team. Sweeney is one of the four contenders for three potential spots on the

Turn to Sweeney, Page 4

UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL

Huskies show character, but have a way to go

By Shreyas Laddha Hartford Courant

Inopportune circumstances build character. For this shorthanded UConn men's basketball team, there has been plenty of character-building moments. UConn won a tough game, 74-64, against St. Bonaventure on Saturday in the Never Forget Tribute Classic in New Jersey.

UConn has missed two of its scoring leaders in Adama Sanogo (abdominal strain) and Tyrese Martin (wrist), who have been out three and four games, respectively.

Over that stretch, UConn has

gone 2-1. More important, UConn has started to build winning habits that will pay off when March rolls around and games become do or die. The Huskies are nowhere near a finished product, but they have

seemingly weathered the storm without their two stars.

According to UConn coach Dan Hurley, Martin should be back on Dec. 18 against Providence, and Sanogo will have a chance to play,

Turn to Men, Page 4

UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Juhász finally puts it all together

OSU graduate transfer got 1st double-double in victory vs. UCLA

By Alexa Philippou Hartford Courant

Entering the 2021-22 season, Dorka Juhász was perhaps the most intriguing player on the UConn women's basketball roster. A graduate transfer from Ohio State, Juhász came to Storrs as a two-time All-Big Ten player and three-year starter

for the Buckeyes.

She was expected to not just add depth to the Huskies' front court but help them stretch the floor with her proven outside shooting, a skill-set UConn's other bigs hadn't yet demonstrated.

It has taken some time for Juhász to find her footing — it didn't help that she missed much of the preseason with a pulled muscle in her thigh — but if the 6-foot-5 forward from Pecs, Hungary can play with the confidence and poise she had in No. 3 UConn's 71-61 victory over UCLA, she could be a key piece in helping the Huskies win without star player Paige Bueckers.

After recording 34 double-doubles at Ohio State, Juhász posted her first as a Husky on Saturday, finishing with a season-best 16 points on perfect shooting from the field (5-for-5, 1-for-1 on 3s) and a team-high 16 rebounds. It was the first time Juhász cracked double figures in scoring at UConn (her previous season-best was six). It was also the second time in four games that she had at least 10 rebounds.

"It's not easy for her to come in after playing three years in a different system and then coming here and having to try to adjust to what we're doing," UConn coach Geno Auriemma said. "Even now, it's not 100% there, obviously, but little by little. I hope today was an indication of what she can be."

If all goes to plan, this could be the corner Juhász turns to emerge as the player Auriemma envisioned her being. The coach was high on Juhász entering the season,

Turn to Juhász, Page 4

Did you know?

While we do only one quarter of our driving at night, 50% of traffic deaths happen at that time. It doesn't matter whether the road is familiar or not, driving at night can be more dangerous.

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Up next

Patriots: at Colts, Saturday, 8:15 p.m. Giants: Cowboys, Sunday, 1 p.m. Jets: at Dolphins, Sunday, 1 p.m. **UConn MBB:** Providence (XL), Saturday, 5 p.m.; at

Marquette, Dec. 21, 9 p.m.; at Xavier, Dec. 28, 7 p.m. UConn WBB: Basketball HoF Women's Showcase: vs. Louisville (Mohegan Sun), Sunday, 3:30 p.m.; Marquette (XL), Dec. 29, 7 p.m.; at DePaul, Dec. 31,

Celtics: Bucks, Monday, 7:30 p.m.; Warriors, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Knicks, Saturday, 7 p.m. Knicks: Warriors Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.; at Rockets, Thursday, 8 p.m.; Celtics, Saturday, 7 p.m. Nets: Raptors, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.; 76ers, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Magic, Saturday, 7:30 p.m. **UConn hockey:** at Harvard, Jan. 2, 7 p.m.; at Boston Coll., Jan. 8, 4 p.m.; Boston Univ., Jan. 14,

Bruins: Knights, Tuesday, 7 p.m.; at Islanders, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; at Canadiens, Saturday, 7

Rangers: at Avalanche, Tuesday, 9 p.m.; at Covotes, Wednesday, 9 p.m.; Knights, Friday, 7

Wolf Pack: Lehigh Valley, Friday, 7 p.m.; at Springfield, Saturday, 7 p.m.; Springfield, Sunday,

TV/RADIO

ACTION SPORTS 8 p.m.: 2021 World Chase Tag USA (Taped) ESPN2 **BASKETBALL** 9 a.m.: Womens College }Kentucky at Louisville. (Taped) ESPNU 1 p.m.: Villanova at Baylor. (Taped) ESPNU 7 p.m.: Golden State Warriors at Indiana Pacers. (Live) NBA 7:30 p.m.: Milwaukee Bucks at Boston Celtics. (Live), NBCSB. 8 p.m.: Albany (N.Y.) at Boston College. (Live)

10 p.m.: LSU at Georgia Tech. (Taped) ESPNU 10:30 p.m.: Phoenix Suns at Los Angeles Clippers. (Live) NBA

12 a.m.: Womens College }Maryland at South Carolina. (Taped) ESPNU **FOOTBALL**

12 p.m.: CFP National Championship Ohio State vs Alabama. (Taped) SEC 3 p.m.: Clemson at Syracuse. (Taped) ACC 8 p.m.: Los Angeles Rams at Arizona Cardinals. (Live) ABC ESPN 2 a.m.: Missouri at Boston College. (Taped) ACC

HOCKEY 12 p.m.: Florida Panthers at Colorado Avalanche. (Taped) NHL 2 p.m.: Minnesota Wild at Vegas Golden Knights.

(Taped) NHL 7:30 p.m.: Calgary Flames at Chicago Blackhawks. (Live) SPRTNET NHL **TENNIS**

8 a.m.: ATP Tennis Rio de Janeiro-ATP Challenger, Maia 2-ATP Challenger, Early Rounds. (Live) **TENNIS**

4 p.m.: ATP Tennis Rio de Janeiro-ATP Challenger, Early Rounds. (Live) **TENNIS**

SAINTS 30, JETS 9

Saints end losing streak at 5 games

Jets made to pay dearly for troubles

By Dennis Waszak Jr. Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Five straight losses didn't sit well with the New Orleans Saints. So they took it out on the skidding New York Jets, and things felt just about normal again.

Alvin Kamara ran for 120 yards and a touchdown in his return from a four-game absence, and the Saints snapped their longest skid under Sean Payton with a 30-9 victory Sunday.

"This has been a tough stretch for this team," said quarterback Taysom Hill, who had two TD runs. "It's been a foreign thing, losing so many games. ... It's nice to get this win."

And having Kamara back in the backfield was key for the Saints (6-7).

"He gave us some real good juice and energy, and he always does," Payton said.

After missing four games with a sprained knee, Kamara looked fully healthy again while carrying the ball 27 times in his fifth career 100-yard rushing performance. He also caught four passes for 25 yards.

"Man, just having his presence on the field and having the ability to hand him the ball," Hill said, "he iust does so much for this team just being there."

After injuring his right middle finger in the Saints' previous game, Hill was 15 of 21 for 175 yards, and ran for 73 yards on 11 carries. He got hit on his hand during the game and said the injury affected him at times.

"It was OK," he said. "Overall, I thought we were able to manage it."

Brett Maher added three field goals and the Saints defense stifled Zach Wilson and New York's short-handed offense as the Jets (3-10) were eliminated from playoff contention. They have missed the postseason 11 straight years, tying the franchise's longest drought set from 1970-80. It is also the longest active skid in the NFL.

"It's going to flip," coach Robert Saleh insisted, "This crappy part is part of the process, but at the same time it's not discouraging



New York Jets quarterback Zach Wilson (2) is sacked by New Orleans Saints defensive end Marcus Davenport (92) and Kwon Alexander (5) Sunday in East Rutherford, N.J. ADAM HUNGER/AP

by any sense of the imagination because we've got a lot of young guys getting a lot of good playing time."

New York was missing wide receivers Corey Davis (groin) and Elijah Moore (quadriceps) and running backs Michael Carter (high ankle sprain) and Tevin Coleman (concussion) and it showed. The Jets went just 3 of 14 on third down and had only 256 yards of offense.

Wilson, coming off his best performance, missed receivers short at times and overthrew them at others. There were also several drops, including three in the first half by running back Ty Johnson.

"Just right from the beginning, I've got to be more accurate," said Wilson, who was 19 of 42 for 202 yards.

After not getting a first

down on their first three possessions, Wilson got one right away with an 18-yard scramble. He converted another a few minutes later with a 14-yard pass to a sliding Braxton Berrios on fourth-and-7. But the drive stalled and Eddy Pineiro, the Jets' third kicker in as many games, booted a 36-yard field goal to tie it at 3 — prompting some mock cheers from the MetLife Stadium crowd.

A few minutes later, an interference penalty by Justin Hardee on a punt by the Jets put the Saints at their 46 to start.

On his fourth straight carry, Kamara made a pretty juke to slip a tackle attempt by Bryce Hall and then zipped into the end zone for a 16-yard TD that gave New Orleans a 10-3 lead. Kamara had 35 yards on four carries on the drive.

Pineiro ended the first half with a 46-yarder to make it 10-6. The Jets got down to the Saints 24, but consecutive penalties on wide receiver Denzel Mims - illegal hands to the face and illegal formation hindered the drive.

"The penalties were killer, obviously," Saleh said. With the Jets trailing by two scores, they went for it on fourth-and-6 from their 49 and Wilson's pass to Keelan Cole went off

the receiver's outstretched hands as Marcus Williams disrupted the play. That gave the Saints the ball and Hill capped the drive with a 2-yard TD run. He finished his day with a 44-yard touchdown scamper — the longest of his career — with 1:07 remain-

ing. But his teammates

razzed him for not sliding

so late in the game.

"I knew we needed one more first down, and you get up in the open field and it was third-and-long," Hill said with a smile. "I should have slid. I don't have anything else for you."

In memory

The Jets held a moment of silence before the game in honor of former wide receiver Demaryius Thomas, who died Thursday night in his suburban Atlanta home at 33.

Thomas played the last of his 10 NFL seasons with the Jets in 2019, catching 36 passes for 433 yards and a touchdown in 11 games. The Jets showed a picture of Thomas in his New York jersey on Sunday with the words: "In Memory of Demaryius Thomas. 1987-

PHANTOMS 4, WOLF PACK 3

Wolf Pack lose in shootout in 1st game in 15 days

Staff Report

ALLENTOWN, Pa. -The Wolf Pack battled back multiple times on Sunday afternoon in their first game in 15 days, but ultimately came up just short in Lehigh Valley. The Wolf Pack dropped a 4-3 shootout decision to the Phantoms at PPL Center for their second consecutive loss.

Adam Clendening scored in the third round of the shootout, snapping a shot by Adam Huska to give the Phantoms their second win of the weekend and their first against the Wolf Pack this season.

Gerry Mayhew got the game started with his team-leading ninth goal of the season 18:48 into the game to give Lehigh Valley a 1-0 lead. Mayhew's tally, assisted by Clendening and Garrett Wilson, came on the powerplay.

The Wolf Pack tied it just 2:23 into the second

period, starting the scoring in a frantic middle frame. Morgan Barron notched his team-leading seventh of the season for Hartford, pouncing on a rebound and depositing it past Pat Nagle.

The Phantoms regained the lead at 8:30, as Wilson fired home his fifth of the season. Just under five minutes later, at 13:17, Isaac Ratcliffe potted his third of the season to give the Phantoms a 3-1 lead.

The Wolf Pack were able

to cut the lead to 3-2 before the intermission. Austin Rueschhoff scored his second goal of the season at 18:49, tipping a slap-pass from defenseman Tarmo Reunanen by Nagle to give the Pack life heading into the final regulation period.

In the third, Zac Jones scored a power-play goal at 17:12 to tie the score and force overtime. The goal gave Jones a three-game goal scoring streak and pushed his point streak to a

season-high four-games.

Overtime solved nothing, and for the third time this season the Wolf Pack headed to a shootout. For the first time this season. however, the Wolf Pack came up short. Wade Allison scored in the first round for the Phantoms, while both Jones and Tim Gettinger were denied for Hartford.

Clendening's goal proved to be the difference, as the Wolf Pack dropped their second consecutive game.

Giants

from Page 1

He caught an 18-yard TD pass from Glennon on a double move in garbage time, but it was too late to make an impact on the game. It was his first TD since Week 4.

He had 95 total scrimmage yards but 28 of them and the TD came in the fourth quarter. He had two bad first-half runs that helped stall drives as the Chargers were building a lead that ballooned to 30-7 with 5:05 left in the third quarter.

"I felt a little more explosive today getting comfortable with the rock, but I've got to go back and watch film before I can better answer," he said.

Daniel Jones (neck strain), the QB the Giants drafted in 2019 after Herbert decided to stay at Oregon an extra year, went through a long pregame workout but remained sidelined and helpless to do anything but watch.

Brandon Staley's Chargers (8-5) beat Joe Judge's Giants (4-9) in every conceivable way. Herbert didn't even have to play the whole game. Chase Daniel replaced him late in the fourth quarter after Barkley's TD.

Herbert's offense ran the ball at will with Austin Ekeler and a committee of backs behind an offensive line that pushed around the Giants defensive front.

Herbert threw touchdown passes to Guyton, Josh Palmer and Jared Cook. The Giants in no way took advantage of the absences of Chargers receiver Keenan Allen and safety Derwin James.

Glennon was bad for a second straight loss, often throwing to the wrong receiver or behind guys. He accounted for three TDs,

two passing and one rushing, an interception and a lost fumble. Two of the TDs and the INT came in garbage time.

"Disappointing," Glennon said.

When he was on target, Darius Slayton dropped a pass and Kenny Golladay hauled in only one of his first six targets - all contested — for five yards.

Sterling Shepard returned after missing four straight games and didn't make a catch until his second target with under three minutes to play in the third quarter.

Everyone chipped into

the miserv. The offense answered Ekeler's 1-yard TD to open scoring with a 3-yard Glennon TD pass to running back Eli Penny at 1:29 of the first quarter.

It was set up by Kyle Rudolph's career-high 60-yard catch and run on a nice throw by Glennon, who stood strong to make the throw and got walloped on a blitz.

But the good feelings didn't last long.

Graham Gano put the ensuing kickoff out of bounds, giving Herbert the ball at LA's 40 and setting up a second straight nineplay, 60-yard Chargers TD

Jarren Williams committed a holding penalty on one punt coverage. Riley Dixon punted a ball 18 yards late in the second quarter, providing breathing room for Herbert's ridiculous TD throw with 17 seconds left in the half.

The Giants have been outscored 59-0 this season in the final two minutes of first halves: 42-0 in the first six weeks, 3-0 in the next five, and 14-0 in the last two.

Dixon also airmailed a throw intended for a wide open Keion Crossen on a fake punt that would have been an easy first down.

"You got to go out there and execute," Judge said. You can't afford to go out there and make mistakes. There were too many opportunities out there today that we didn't take advantage of. There's plenty of things where we've got to be better."

Gano, Cam Brown and Crossen successfully executed an onside kick late in the fourth quarter, but it was too late to make a difference.

Defensive lineman Leonard Williams (right elbow) left the game early and did not return. Left guard Ben Bredeson, who rotated in for Matt Skura, was hurt in

the second half. Judge started Nate Solder at right tackle but played Matt Peart plenty there, as well, for the first time in a

while. It doesn't matter who is in the game these days, though, the Giants just don't have a winning prod-



Los Angeles Chargers quarterback Justin Herbert runs with the ball against the New York Giants on Sunday in Inglewood, Calif. KYUSUNG GONG/AP

uct on the field.

They fly home 0-2 on this extended trip from Miami through Tucson to LA, with only games against the Cowboys, Eagles, Bears and Washington before this season is mercifully over.

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Sun Bowl Miami		(59½)			b-Aug. 1: U.S. 1, Mexico 0 q-Sept. 2: U.S. 0, El Salvador q-Sept. 5: U.S. 1, Canada 1	0
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Penn State Fiesta Bowl		(47)	Arka	nsas	Sat.: vs. Bosnia-Herzegovina q-Jan. 27, 2022: vs. El Salvad q-Jan. 30: vs. Canada, TBD	
Notre Dame Citrus Bowl Kentucky		(45½) (44)	Oklahom I	a St. Iowa	q-Feb. 2: vs. Honduras, TBD q-March 24: vs. Mexico, TBD	
Rose Bowl Ohio State		(66½)		Utah	q-March 27: vs. Panama, TBI q-March 30: vs. Costa Rcia, 1	D
Sugar Bowl Baylor		(54½)	Mississ	sippi	a-Nations Cup. b-Gold Cup; q-World Cup qualifying	
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Tampa Bay	27	17	6	4	38	89	7
Boston	24	14	8	2	30	69	(
Detroit	28	13	12	3	29	78	9
Buffalo	27	8	15	4	20	73	9
Ottawa	25	8	16	1	17	67	9
Montreal	29	6	20	3	15	62	10
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Washington	28	17	5	6	40	97	7
Carolina	26	19	6	1	39	84	į
N.Y. Rangers	27	18	6	3	39	79	(
Pittsburgh	27	14	8	5	33	80	7
Columbus	26	14	11	1	29	86	8
New Jersey	26	10	11	5	25	74	8
Philadelphia	26	10	12	4	24	65	8
N.Y. Islanders	23	7	11	5	19	50	7
WESTERN (:ON	IFF	RF	NC	F		
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Minnesota	27	19	7	1	39	102	7
Nashville	28	17	10	1	35	81	7
St. Louis	28	15	8	5	35	96	7
Colorado	24	15	7	2	32	106	8
Winnipeg	27	13	9	5	31	82	7
Dallas	25	13	10	2	28	69	7
Chicago	27	10	15	2	22	62	8
Arizona	27	5	20	2	12	48	10
PACIFIC	GP	W	L	ОΤ	PTS	GF	G
Anaheim	30	16	9	5	37	94	8
Calgary	28	15	7	6	36	87	6
Edmonton	26	16	10	0	32	90	8
San Jose	28	15	12	1	31	75	7
Vegas	26	15	11	0	30	89	8
Los Angeles	26	12	10	4	28	70	(
Vancouver	28	11	15	2	24	70	8
Seattle	27	9	15	3	21	77	9
NOTE: Two po	oint	s fo	ra	win	, one	ioq e	١t
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SUNDAY'S RE	cııı	TC					
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TENNIS VTA OPEN ANGERS ARENA LOIRE unday at Arena Loire, Angers, France, ardcourt outdoor

SOCCER											
ENGLISH PRE				GUE L GF	GA	P					
Man City	16	12	2	2 33	9	3					
Liverpool	16	11	4	1 45	12	3					
Chelsea	16	11	3	2 38	11	3					
West Ham	16	8	4	4 28	19	2					
Man United	16	8	3	5 26	24	2					
Arsenal	16	8	2	6 21	22	2					
Tottenham	14	8	1	5 16	17	2					

righton vs. Wolverhampton, 2:30p.m. urnley vs. Watford, 2:30n.m. Crystal Palace vs. Southampton, 2:30 p.m. Arsenal vs. West Ham, 3p.m. HURSDAY'S MATCHES

unday's championship t WakeMed Soccer Park; Cary, N.C. RECENT NCAA MEN'S FINALS **2020:** Marshall 1, Indiana 0 (OT) 2019: Georgetown 3, Virginia 3(20t, pk) 018: Maryland 1. Akron 0 2017: Stanford 1, Indiana 0 (20T) 2016: Stanford 0, Wake Forest 0 (20T, pk) 015: Stanford 4. Clemson 0

MONDAY, DEC. 20

Minnesota

at Tampa Bay

7 11 48 49

https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/

For the latest odds, go to

FanDuel Sportsbook

GA OBE SHOOTOUT rd of 3 rounds, Tiburon GC,Naples, Fla. 382 yards: Par: 72

1,382 yards; Par: 12	
183 (-33)	\$895,000
Na/Kokrak	59-64-60
184 (-32)	\$560,000
Horschel/Burns	61-62-61
185 (-31)	\$305,000
Kuchar/English	57-66-62
Leishman/Day	56-64-65
188 (-28)	\$220,000
Kisner/Homa	61-66-61
McDowell/Conners	57-67-64
190 (-26)	\$195,000
Zalatoris/O'Hair	62-65-63
192 (-24)	\$190,000
Poulter/Howell III	61-68-63
193 (-23)	\$185,000
Watson/Thompson	59-66-68
194 (-22)	\$180,000
Swafford/Harman	60-71-63
195 (-21)	\$172,500
Palmer/Jones	61-69-65
Snedeker/Lee	62-68-65

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

MEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED 1. Purdue (9-1) beat NC State 82-72, OT. Next: at Butler, Saturday.
2. Baylor (9-0) beat #6 Villanova 57-36. Next: at Oregon, Saturday. 3. Duke (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. SC 4. UCLA (9-1) did not play. Next: vs. Alabama St., Wednesday.
5. Gonzaga (8-2) vs. Washington, ccd..
Next: vs. Texas Tech, Saturday. 6. Villanova (7-3) lost to #2 Baylor 57-36. Next: at Creighton, Friday. 7. Texas (6-2) did not play. Next: vs. Ark.-Pine Bluff, Tuesda 8. Kansas (8-1) did not play. Next: vs. Stephen F. Austin, Saturday. 9. Alabama (8-1) did not play. Next: at Memphis, Tuesday. 10. Kentucky (7-2) did not play. Next: vs. #21 Ohio State, Saturday. 11. Arizona (9-0) did not play. Next: vs. N. Colorado, Wednesday. 12. Arkansas (9-1) did not play. Next: vs Hofstra, Saturday.

13. Tennessee (7-2) did not play. Next: vs. SC-Upstate, Tuesday. 14. Houston (8-2) did not play. Next: vs. Louisiana-Lafayette, Tuesday.

15. UConn (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. Providence, Saturday.

16. USC (10-0) beat Long Beach State 73-62. Next: vs. UC Irvine, Wednesday. 17. Iowa State (10-0) beat Jackson St. 47-37. Next: vs. SE La, Sunday, Dec. 19. 18. Auburn (8-1) did not play. Next: vs. North Alabama, Tuesday. 19. Michigan St. (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. Oakland, Tuesday, Dec. 21. 20. Florida (7-3) lost to Maryland 70-68. Next: at South Florida, Saturday. 21. Ohio State (8-2) did not play. Next: at #10 Kentucky, Saturday.

22. Wisconsin (8-2) did not play. Next: vs. Nicholls St., Wednesday.

23. Seton Hall (8-1) vs. Rutgers. Next: vs Iona, Saturday.

24. BYU (8-2) did not play. Next: at Weber St., Saturday.

25. LSU (9-0) did not play. Next: vs. Northwestern St., Tuesd

SUNDAY'S SCORES

EAST Daemen 71, Bridgeport 59 Davidson 79, Northeastern 69 Fisher 95, Maine Maritime 84 Franklin Pierce 87, Bentley 86 Hofstra 102, John Jay 51 Loyola (Md.) 67, Hampton 54 Maryland 70, Florida 68 Navy 67, Marist 61 Niagara 112, Buffalo St. 52 St. John's 82, Colgate 64 St. Michael's 83, Post (Conn.) 77 St. Peter's 87, Nyack 48 St. Thomas Aquinas 90, Holy Family 68 West Virginia 63, Kent St. 50 SOUTH

Barry 113, Caldwell 74 Chattanooga 104, Tenn. Wesleyan 55 Coastal Carolina 60, Wofford 59 Coll. Charleston 78, Presbyterian 76, OT Delta St. 78. Auburn-Montgomery 67 Fairfield 70, William & Mary 47 Miami 72, Fordham 66 N. Kentucky 91, Alice Lloyd 55 Purdue 82, NC State 72 South Carolina 66, Florida St. 65 Tennessee St. 73, Lipscomb 65 UAB 103, Millsaps 29

Akron 73. Florida A&M 66 Ball State 85, Indiana-Kokomo 58 Dayton 62, Virginia Tech 57 Indiana 81. Merrimack 49 Iowa St. 47, Jackson St. 37 Kansas St. 82, Green Bay 64 Northwestern 70, NJIT 52 SIU-Edwardsville 60, UMKC 56 SOUTHWEST Baylor 57, Villanova 36 Texas St. 101, Southwestern (Texas) 54

CAL 58, George Fox 56 Marietta 83, Baldwin Wallace 71 Southern Cal 73, Long Beach St. 62 UTEP 77, New Mexico 69 W. Washington 121, NW Indian 63 Whitworth 80, Colorado 61

WOMEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED 1. South Carolina (10-0) beat #8 Mary land 66-59. Next: at #19 Duke, Wed. 2. NC State (10-1) beat St. Mary's (Cal) 101-73. Next: vs. #21 Georgia, Thu. 3. UConn (6-2) did not play. Next: vs. Louisville, Sunday, Dec. 19 4. Stanford (6-2) beat Pacific 91-62. 5. Baylor (9-1) did not play. Next: at #13 Michigan, Sunday, Dec. 19.
6. Arizona (9-0) beat New Mexico 77-60. Next: at Northern Arizona, Friday, 7. Louisville (8-1) beat #14 Kentucky 64-58. Next: vs. Eastern Kentucky, Wed. 8. Maryland (9-3) lost to #1 South Carolina 66-59. Next: at Coppin St., Dec. 21. 9. Tennessee (9-0) beat Georgia St. 84-60, Next: vs. #4 Stanford, Saturday 10. Indiana (8-2) beat #20 Ohio State 86-66. Next: vs. W. Michigan, Dec. 19. 11. Texas (7-1) did not play. Next: at #6 Arizona, Sunday, Dec. 19.

12. lowa (5-2) did not play. Next: vs. UCF, Saturday, 73-61. Next: vs. #5 Baylor, Dec. 19.
14. Kentucky (6-3) lost to #7 Louisville 64-58. Next: vs. Morgan St., Friday. 15. Iowa State (10-1) beat N. Iowa 70-60. Next: vs. Prairie View. Dec. 19. 16. BYU (8-1) did not play. Next: vs. Washington State, Saturday.

17. South Florida (6-3) beat VCU 64-57. Next: vs. Stetson, Tuesday. 18. Texas A&M (9-2) lost to TCU 87-75. Next: vs. Rice, Sunday, Dec. 19. 19. Duke (8-0) did not play. Next: vs. #1 South Carolina, Wednesday. 20. Ohio St. (7-2) lost to #9 Indiana 86-66. Next: vs. Alabama State, Wednesday. 21. Georgia (8-1) did not play. Next: at #2 NC State, I nursday. 22. Notre Dame (9-2) beat Fort Wayne 78-41. Next: vs. Pitt, Sunday, Dec. 19. 23. Oregon State (5-3) lost to Villanova 56-52. Next: vs. Idaho, Friday. 24. LSU (7-1) beat Texas Southern

AUTO RACING

96-55. Next: vs. Alcorn St., Wednesday

25. Colorado (9-0) did not play. Next: vs. San Francisco, Monday.

F1 ABU DHABI GRAND PRIX at Yas Marina Circuit, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E., Lap: 5.00 kilometers (Start position in parentheses)
1. (1) Max Verstappen, Red Bull Racing, 58 laps, 1:30:17,345, 26 pts. 2. (2) Lewis Hamilton, Mercedes, 58, +2.256seconds, 18. 3. (5) Carlos Sainz, Ferrari, 58, +5,173, 15 4. (8) Yuki Tsunoda Alphatauri, 58, +5.692, 12. 5. (12) Pierre Gasly, Alphatauri, 58, 5. (12) Plerre Gasiy, Alphatauri, 58, +6.531, 10. 6. (6) Val. Bottas, Mercedes, 58, +7.463, 8 7. (3) Lando Norris, McLaren, 58, +59.200, 6. 8. (11) Fernando Alonso, Alpine, 58, +1:01.708, 4. 9. (9) Esteban Coon, Alpine, 58, +1:04.026, 2. 10. (7) Charles Leclerc, Ferrari, 58, +1:06.057. 1. 10. (10.) Harris Jecker, Fernan, 35, 11. (15) Sebastian Vettel, Aston Martin, 58, +1:07.527. 12. (10) Daniel Ricciardo, McLaren, 57, 13. (13) Lance Stroll, Aston Martin, 57, +1. 14. (19) Mick Schumacher, Haas F1, 57, +1 15. (4) Sergio Perez, Red Bull Racing, DNF, 56 (16) Nicholas Latif, Williams DNF, 50 (16) Nicholas Nicholas Latif, Williams DNF, 50 (16) Nicholas Latif,

Racing, DNF, 33. 18. (17) George Russell, Williams, DNF, 26 19. (18) Kimi Raikkonen, Alfa Romeo **DRIVER STANDINGS** M.Verstappen 395.5 L.Hamilton V.Bottas 226 Ser.Perez 226 Ser.Perez 164.5 L.Norris C.Sainz Ch.Leclerc 159 D.Ricciardo 115 110 Fer.Alonso P.Gasly 74 Seb.Vettel 43 MANUFACTURER STANDINGS 613.5 Red Bull Racing 585.5 323.5 McLaren 275 Mercedes Alpine Renault 155 Alphatauri Aston Martin 77 Williams

16. (16) Nicholas Latifi, Williams, DNF, 50

17. (14) Antonio Giovinazzi, Alfa Romeo

RECENT FORMULA 1 DRIVER CHAMPS YEAR: DRIVER PTS TEAM
2020: Lewis Hamilton 347 Mercedes
2019: Lewis Hamilton 413 Mercedes 2018: Lewis Hamilton 408 2017: Lewis Hamilton 363 Mercedes

13 Haas Ferrari

Alfa Romeo

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

NCAA FCS PLAYOFFS SATURDAY, DEC. 11QUARTERFINALS Montana St. 42, Sam Houston 19 South Dakota St. 35, Villanova 21 North Dakota St. 27, ETSU 3 FRIDAY'S SEMIFINAL North Dakota St. (12-1) vs. James Madison (12-1), 9:15p.m.

SATURDAY'S SEMIFINAL Montana State (11-2) vs. South Dakota State (11-3), 2p.m. NCAA DIVISION II PLAYOFFS

SATURDAY'S CHAMPIONSHIP McKinney (Tex.) ISD Stadium

Ferris St. (13-0) vs. Valdosta St. (12-1), 9 p.m. NCAA DIVISION III PLAYOFFS SATURDAY, DEC. 11 SEMIFINALS
Mary Hardin-Baylor 24,Wis.-Whitewater 7
North Central 26, Mount Union 13 FRIDAY'S CHAMPIONSHIP
Mary Hardin-Baylor (14-0) vs.
North Central (III.) (14-0), 7p.m.

UPCOMING BOWL GAMES FRIDAY'S GAMES Bahamas BowlNassau, Bahamas Toledo (7-5) vs. Mid. Tenn. (6-6), noon Cure Bowl. Orlando. Fla.

N. Illinois (9-4) vs. C. Carolina (10-2), 6 p.m.

SATURDAY'S GAMES Boca Raton Bowl, Boca Raton, Fla. W. Ky (8-5) vs. Appal. St. (10-3), 11a.m. **Celebration Bowl. Atlanta** SC St. (6-5) vs. Jackson St. (11-1), noon New Mexico Bowl, Albuquerque Fresno St. (9-3) vs. UTEP (7-5), 2:15p.m. Independence Bowl, Shreveport, La. #12BYU (10-2) vs. UAB (8-4), 3:30p.m. LendingTree Bowl, Mobile, Ala. E. Michigan (7-5) vs. Liberty (7-5), 5:45 p.m. **LA Bowl, Inglewood, Calif.** Oregon St. (7-5) vs. Utah St. (10-3), 7:30 p.m. New Orleans Bowl, New Orleans #16 La-Laf. (12-2) vs. Marshall (7-5), 9:15 p.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 20 Myrtle Beach Bowl, Conway, S.C. Old Dominion (6-6) vs. Tulsa (6-6), 2:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, DEC. 21 Famous Idaho Potato, Boise, Idaho Kent St (7-6) vs. Wyoming (6-6), 3:30 p.m. Frisco Bowl, Frisco, Texas #24 UTSA (12-1) vs. S. Diego St. (11-2), 7p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 22 **Armed Forces Bowl, Fort Worth, Texas** Missouri (6-6) vs. Army (8-3), 8p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 23 Frisco Football Classic, Frisco, Texas Miami (7-5) vs. N. Texas (6-6), 3:30p.m. Gasparilla Bowl, Tampa, Fla. UCF (8-4) vs. Florida (6-6), 7p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 24 Hawaii Bowl, Honolulu Memphis (6-6) vs. Hawaii (6-7), 8p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 25 Camellia Bowl, Montgomery, Ala. Ball State (6-6) vs. Ga. St. (7-5), 2:30 p.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 27 Quick Lane Bowl Nevada (8-4) vs. W. Mich. (7-5), 11a.m. Military Bowl, Annapolis, Md. Bos Coll. (6-6) vs. E. Carolina (7-5), 2:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, DEC. 28 Birmingham Bowl, Birmingham, Ala. #21 Houston (11-2) vs. Auburn (6-6), noon SERVPRO First Responder Bowl, Dallas Air Force (9-3) vs. Louisville (6-6), 3:15 p.m. Air Force (9-3) vs. Louisville (6-6), 3:15 p.m. Liberty Bowl, emphis, Tenn.

Miss St. (7-5) vs. TX Tech (6-6), 6:45p.m. Holiday Bowl, San Diego
UCLA (8-4) vs. NC State (9-3), 8p.m.

Guaranteed Rate Bowl, Phoenix

Minnesota (8-4) vs. W. Va (6-6), 10:15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 29 Fenway Bowl, Boston Virginia (6-6) vs. SMU (8-4), 11a.m. Pinstripe Bowl, New York City Va. Tech (6-6) vs. Maryland (6-6), 2:15 p.m. wa. rectr (009) st. Mary Jan (009), 2.13 p.m. Cheez-It Bowl, Orlando, Fla. #19 Clemson (9-3) vs. Iowa St. (7-5), 5:45 p.m. Alamo Bowl, San Antonio #14 Okla. (10-2) vs. #15 Oregon (10-3), 9:15 a.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 30 Duke's Mayo Bowl, Charlotte, N.C. S. Carolina (6-6) vs. N. Carolina (6-6), 11:30 a.m. Music City Bowl, Nashville Purdue (8-4) vs. Tennessee (7-5), 3p.m. Peach Bowl, Atlanta Las Vegas Bowl, Las Vegas Wisconsin (8-4) vs. Arizona St. (8-4), 10:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 31 College Football Playoff Semifinal (Orange Bowl), Miami Gardens, Fla. #2 Michigan (12-1) vs. #3 Georgia (12-1), 7:30 p.m. (Cotton Bowl Classic), Arlington, Texas #1Alabama (12-1) vs. #4Cincinnati (13-0), 7:30p.m. Gator Bowl, Jacksonville, Fla. #20Wake Forest (10-3) vs. #23Texas A&M (8-4), 10a,m. Sun Bowl, El Paso, Texas Wash. St. (7-5) vs. Miami (7-5), noon Arizona Bowl, Tucson, Ariz. C. Mich. (8-4) vs. Boise St. (7-5), 4:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 1 Outback Bowl, Tampa, Fla. #22 Arkansas (8-4) vs. Penn St. (7-5), noon Citrus Bowl, Orlando, Fla. #17 lowa (10-3) vs. #25 Kentucky (9-3), 1 p.m. Fiesta Bowl, Glendale, Ariz. #5Notre Dame (11-1) vs. #90klahoma St. (11-2), 1p.m. **Rose Bowl, Pasadena, Calif.** #7 Ohio St. (10-2) vs. #10 Utah (10-3), 5 p.m. Sugar Bowl, New Orleans #6 Baylor (11-2) vs. #8 Miss. (10-2), 8:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JAN, 4 **Texas Bowl, Houston** LSU (6-6) vs. Kansas St. (7-5), 9p.m. MONDAY, JAN. 8

CFP Championship Game, Indianapolis Semifinal winners, 8p.m. Finalist voting for Heisman Memorial Trophy, with 1st-, 2nd- and 3rd-place

votes and total (voting on 3-2-1 basis): 2021 VOTING 1 2 3 PT Br. Young, Alabama 684 107 45 2,311 Aidan Hutchinson, 78 273 174 954 Michigan Kenny Pickett, Pitt 28 175 197 631 C.J. Stroud, Ohio St. 12 118 127 399

SCHOOLS WITH MOST HEISMANS 7: Notre Dame, Ohio State, Oklahoma 6: USC (1 vacated). 4: Alabama

RECENT HEISMAN WINNERS

2021 Bryce Young Alabama QB 2,311 2020 DeVonta Smith Alabama WR 1,856 Joe Burrow LSU QB 2,608 Kyler Murray Oklahoma QB 2,167 Baker Mayfield Oklahoma QB 2,398 2017 LouisvilleQB 2,144 Alabama RB 1,832 Lamar Jackson Derrick Henry Marcus Mariota Oregon QB 2,534 Jameis Winston Fla St QB 2,205 Johnny Manziel Tex A&M QB 2,029 2014 2011 Robert Griffin III Baylor OB 1.687 Cam Newton Mark Ingram Jr. Auburn QB 2,263 Alabama RB 1,304 2009 2008 Sam Bradford OklahomaOB 1,726 Florida QB 1,957 Ohio St QB 2,540 USC RB 2,541 Tim Tebow Troy Smith Reggie Bush Matt Leinart Jason White 2005 QB 1,325 OklahomaQB 1,481 USC QB 1,328 2003 2002 Carson Palmer Eric Crouch Chris Weinke Nebraska QB 770 Fla St. QB 1,628 2000 RB 2,042 1999 Ron Davne Wisc. 1998 1997 Ricky Williams Texas Charles WoodsonMich. RB 2,355 CB 1,815 1996 Danny Wuerffel Florida OB 1.363 1995 1994 Eddie George Ohio St. RB 1,460 Rashaan Salaam Colorado RB 1,743 QB 2,310 QB 1,400 WR 2,077 1993 Charlie Ward Fla St. 1992 1991 Gino Torretta Miami Desmond HowardMich. 1990 Tv Detmer BYU OB 1,482 Andre Ware Houston 1988 Barry Sanders Okla. St. RB 1,878 Tim Brown N. Dame WR 1,442 1987 eMiami QB 2,213 Auburn RB 1,509 Vinny Testav 1985 Bo Jackson



Ohio State QB C.J. Stroud, left, and others have what it takes to keep Alabama QB Bryce Young, right, from winning a second Heisman Trophy next year. JOHN MINCHILLO/AP

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Rare repeat in the cards?

By Ralph D. Russo Associated Press

NEW YORK Alabama's Bryce Young and Ohio State's C.J. Stroud have been friends since middle school, competing in basketball and football while growing up in Southern California.

Young can already claim one victory against Stroud, winning the Heisman on Saturday night over his fellow finalist.

The two quarterbacks will return to college in 2022 and resume the competition from afar.

Young is the fifth sophomore to win the Heisman and sixth player in his second year of college. Stroud is a second-year player and first-year starter, like Young, but a redshirt freshman by eligibility.

In 2022, Young will try to become just the second player to win two Heismans. Ohio State running back Archie Griffin is the only two-time winner of college football's top player award, taking it home in 1974 and '75.

History suggest the odds are against Young repeating. Or maybe college football is due for another two-time Heisman winner. Expect Stroud to be a contender, too.

Assuming talented juniors such as Kenneth Walker III of Michigan State and Breece Hall of Iowa State move on to the NFL, who else will go into 2022 with Heiman hype?

Caleb Williams (Oklahoma QB): Williams will be a fascinating case study. The former five-star prospect signed up to play with Lincoln Riley, who's now at USC. With the new NCAA transfer rules, the first question is: Does he stay? And if so, can Oklahoma continue to be a Heisman factory without Riley, who coached winners Baker Mayfield and Kyler Murray?

Jaxson Dart (USC QB): Riley's new QB was thrust into a starting role as a freshman this season and showed promise on a team that wasn't very good. The Trojans would need a big turnaround in 2022 to propel Dart into the Heisman conversation. Could happen.

Braelon Allen (Wiscon**sin RB):** These are tough times for running backs to win the Heisman. Young became the 18th QB winner this century, compared with three RBs. Wisconsin runners usually get the combination of opportunity and team success to make it into the conversation, and Allen looks like the next great Badgers back. After barely seeing the field in Wisconsin's first four games, he ended up running 1,106 yards and with 7.06 yards per carry.

Sean Tucker (Syracuse **RB):** Tucker is worth mentioning because he carried a limited Orange offense this season, with 1,751 yards from scrimmage and 14 TDs.

Will Anderson Jr. (Alabama LB): A case could have been made for Anderson to win this year's Heisman after putting up 15.5 sacks and 31.5 tackles for loss. He finished fifth.

Jaxon Smith-Njigba (Ohio State WR): Receivers winning the Heisman have been even more rare than RBs because their QBs usually get the credit. And Smith-Njigba is playing with a Heisman finalist in Stroud.

IN BRIEF

Brady passes Brees for most completions

News services

Tom Brady surpassed Drew Brees to become the NFL's all-time completions leader. The seven-time Super

Bowl champion began Sunday needing 18 completions to move ahead of Brees, who finished his career with 7,142. Brady's 7,143rd comple-

tion came on a 20-yard strike to Mike Evans with 1:38 left in the first half of the Buccaneers game against the visiting Bills. Earlier this season,

Brady overtook Brees' NFL record for career passing yards (80,358). Ĥe also already holds the record for career TD passes.

■ The Broncos lined up with 10 players in the formation on their first play from scrimmage Sunday against the Lions to honor former wide receiver Demaryius Thomas, who was found dead last week at age 33. Police said Thursday night that preliminary reports were that Thomas' death could have resulted from a medical issue. On a firstand-10 from the Broncos 25-yard line to open the game, the 10 players stood motionless and waited for the play clock to wind down. They were assessed a delay-of-game penalty that the Lions quickly declined. The home crowd cheered loudly, some chanting "D-T" before the play clock ran out.

College basketball: James Akinjo had 16 points with seven rebounds and No. 2 Baylor defensively dominated No. 6 Villanova 57-36, a victory that's likely to put the defending national champion Bears (9-0) in the top spot in the new poll. Top-ranked Purdue lost to Rutgers on Thursday night, clearing the way for Baylor to move up to the No. 1 spot when the new AP poll comes out Monday. Purdue rebounded with an 82-72 road win over NC State.

NBA: Luka Doncic sat out the Mavericks' game vs. the Thunder and also will miss their game against Hornets on Monday with a sore left ankle. ... Pistons leading scorer Jerami Grant will be out at least six weeks with a UCL sprain of his right thumb.

COURANT.COM/SPORTS

Juhász

from Page 1

describing her as potentially "the difference that puts us into that other level." But entering this weekend, the forward had played a subdued role in the Huskies' season, averaging just 2.9 points on 33% shooting and 4.4 rebounds off the bench.

Auriemma liked how hard she played and what she could bring on the defensive end, but she struggled with her offensive output, oftentimes playing too rushed.

"Obviously, it's a different environment," Juhász said. "In the summer, I came in, had to make some adjustments, the intensity level, everything, just keep learning from coach, from my teammates and just keep moving up and making extra steps every single

But with the likes of Bueckers, Azzi Fudd, Nika Mühl and Aubrey Griffin out and sophomore starter Aaliyah Edwards struggling, UConn has been desperate for anyone to step up. Juhász took advantage. Auriemma inserted her into the starting lineup against Georgia Tech and kept her there



UConn coach Geno Auriemma talks to forward Dorka Juhasz (14) during the first half against Georgia Tech on Thursday in Atlanta. **JOHN BAZEMORE/AP**

against UCLA, where she ultimately played a season-high 29 minutes.

Against UCLA, Juhász's confidence on offense was apparent early. Midway through the second quarter, Juhász was left open on the perimeter and took a shot right inside the 3-point line for the score. She really got going in the third, scoring the first five points

to initiate the Huskies' 16-4 run to close the quarter and retake the lead. She got to the free-throw line before popping out onto the perimeter, where the Bruins dared her to shoot again and she knocked down a 3, just her fifth attempt from the arc on the season. Her defensive rebound on the next possession led to Evina Westbrook's transition basket that put UConn ahead

for good.

In the fourth, she helped the Huskies pull away. On one play, she took advantage of UCLA's defenders having their backs to her, cutting to the low block so Westbrook could hit her for a layup. She crashed the glass from the perimeter to score off a putback, made some heads-up defensive plays to come away with two steals and positioned herself perfectly under the basket for freshman Caroline Ducharme to find her off a drive.

Turnovers have still been an issue at times — she had five versus South Carolina and four on Saturday. Typically, those are from unforced errors, happening as a result of her playing too rushed or when she's trying to do too much. Juhász should be able to slow down the more she gets comfortable with UConn's system.

"The one thing that gets in Dorka's way more than anything is she tries to play too fast and then her skills run away from her," Auriemma said. "I thought today she had a pretty good pace about her."

In the meantime, she still plays with an energy and hustle that allow her to come up with rebounds and increasingly make it a net-posi-

tive to have her on the court.

"She always plays with a certain intensity level and a certain strength," Auriemma said. "She's a force out there."

The key moving forward is for Juhász to have this sort of impact consistently, even if it doesn't look like 16 and 16 each night. With Bueckers out for an extended period of time, and the others potentially not returning until after the holidays, Juhász will continue to be looked upon to be a force down low.

To do that, Juhász wants to use the confidence she gained from such an effective offensive showing Saturday and build off that for the rest of the season. The end result could entail more outside shooting, better efficiency inside, consistent productivity on the glass and even stronger defense.

"I've just got to have the same mindset every single game," Juhász said. "I feel like my confidence is going to get there. I just want to help the team in whatever way I can, my rebounding, defense, offense, whenever they need me. That's going to be the plan for the whole season."

Alexa Philippou can be reached at aphilippou@courant.com

Men

from Page 1

from Page I

Here's what we've learned about UConn in the past three games.

The offense is slowly getting more potent

Without Martin and Sanogo, the one consistent offensive option on the floor has been R.J. Cole.

Cole has been trapped, doubled and forced into taking difficult shots. There is a lack of spacing for him to operate, and opponents have dared the rest of the Huskies to beat them. At times, players besides Cole have looked tentative to shoot the ball, and it has led to multiple shot clock violations.

Cole has had a tough time shooting in the three games (32.6% average). While Cole has hit his fair amount of clutch shots, it is guys like Akok Akok, Jordan Hawkins and Isaiah Whaley who have shown signs of UConn being a more formidable offensive team.

UConn has had its scoring droughts even when everybody is fully healthy, but injuries have given the opportunity for increased offensive roles, and it has paid dividends. In this three game span, Akok is averaging eight points and Whaley 10.6, both above their season averages. Both looked confident on the offensive end, especially in key moments in the St. Bonaventure game. Akok finished with 12 points, but more important he didn't hesitate from beyond the arc and canned two 3s. This comes after the West Virginia game where Hurley wanted Akok to take the 3 late in the



The Huskies' Isaiah Whaley blocks a shot by Jaren Holmes of the St. Bonaventure Bonnies with an assist from teammate Jordan Hawkinsduring the first half in the Never Tribute Classic at the Prudential Center on Saturday in Newark, N.J. RICH SCHULTZ/GETTY

game, but he didn't. Hurley liked the team's offensive and overall outlook after the St. Bonaventure game.

"What we're going through right now, like our long-term prospects as a team, I think we are a formidable team this year," Hurley said. "We are a very strong team. Going through the injuries, having to play these last few games without key guys ... is building our depth and putting guys in an uncomfortable position to where they are growing right before our eyes."

One player to keep an eye on is Andre Jackson. Jackson has NBA-level athleticism but doesn't quite have a feel for other parts of the offensive game. Let's see if Hurley tries to get Jackson in attack mode more often and try to feed him easy buckets on cuts and fast breaks.

How he and Hawkins develop could be pivotal for UConn's long-term

Jordan Hawkins is truly a freshman

If you watch any UConn game, pay attention to Hawkins on the court. Not only is the freshman a special offensive talent, but he is also a temperamental player. Hawkins really wants to win, and sometimes he gets in his own head. Over the past three games he went through a rough shooting stretch. Hawkins missed 13 straight shots, including going 0-for-7 against WVU. In the the St. Bonaventure game, he started 0-for-6. Finally, in the second half, he hit a mid-range jumper and it

opened the floodgates. In the next two minutes or so, Hawkins singlehandedly led UConn on an 8-2 run and helped UConn pull away.

His body language completely changed after he hit the jumper. From Hurley to his teammates, everybody has sung Hawkins' praises throughout the season and for good reason. He's a special player, but in his desire to be great he can be emotional at times. It is important that UConn fans give Hawkins time to figure things out. This season will be full of ups and downs, but his emergence will be the difference between a first- or second-round tournament exit or a deep run.

"I was just so happy for him because he is wearing it right now," Hurley said. "He wants to be there, right now like the finished product."

Akok Akok answers the call

UConn fans have wondered where *this* Akok has been all year. Akok has really stepped up in the absence of Martin and Sanogo, averaging eight points, seven rebounds, and 2.6 blocks. He's been a difference maker on both ends. After a five-game stretch where he felt invisible on the court, it really is a night and day difference for him. As UConn gets healthier, these are the minutes and energy he needs to provide off the bench. These past few games have been the best he's played since his freshman year before his Achilles tendon injury.

UConn wins ugly but needs to shoot better

Nothing about UConn's recent games have been particularly pretty. A lot of rough offensive possessions, turnovers in close games and bad shooting. Hurley has built this team on a strong defensive presence and hard-nosed basketball, which has allowed the Huskies to get through these past few games, but they desperately need to make more shots from beyond the arc.

Over the three-game stretch UConn has shot 28% from the 3. UConn currently has just four players (Akok, Hawkins, Martin and Jalen Gaffney) shooting above 35% from 3-point territory. Having their main offensive options back soon should help the Huskies.

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Sweeney

from Page 1

team. She and two-time Olympian Summer Britcher, 27, are the veterans.

The 2022 Winter Olympics will

take place in Beijing starting Feb. 4, with the women's luge competition taking place Feb. 7.

"I'm getting back to [sliding

well]," Sweeney said Tuesday from Germany. "My confidence was rocked a little bit in China, but now I'm getting back to sliding well." Sweeney's mother, Sue, who has supported her two daughters and

their luge dreams for years, isn't surprised Emily came back for one more shot at the Olympics.

"She didn't want to leave her Olympic experience with a crash — with that crash," said Sue, who lived in Suffield for years but now

lives with her husband Larry in

Saranac Lake, New York. "I think

there have been points in the last

four years where she's been ready to say, 'Mmm mmm, no, that's enough.' But she's stubborn and focused and determined."

Sweeney doesn't want the crash to define her. She came back during the 2018-19 season and became the second American woman to win a medal at the World Championships, finishing third. Earlier that season, she had won a bronze medal in her first World Cup in Whistler.

"It's a big part of my story [the crash], so everyone's asking about it," Sweeney said. "I think the part that has stuck with me is there's been a lot of injuries this season so far. Being around that many people getting injured, that has made it feel a little too close to home.

"That was a huge injury, and I don't ever want to go back through that. Other than that, I'm not thinking of that."

In 2018, Sweeney was in 14th place, on her last run at the Olympics. Her parents and her sister

were there, watching. She lost control in Curve 9 — a difficult portion of the track which had challenged all the luge athletes — careening up and down, hitting the sides of the track with her feet before being thrown off the sled.

"That's the worst crash I've seen my girls involved in — just the way she hit," her father Larry said that day from South Korea. "Emily usually doesn't let go of her sled."

Sweeney was able to walk off the track. She talked to reporters after the crash, saying she was "fine," but she wasn't.

She had broken two bones in her back, sprained her ankle and suffered a concussion. She had to rest for six months.

She could only sit up for an hour a day at first. She began to walk on a treadmill that April and was cleared in August to do light workouts. She started to slide again in late September.

Her mother said Emily's back and neck still bothers her, but

RisCassi & Davis

injured for more than 60 years

Protecting the rights of the

Emily doesn't talk about it much. She's more focused on making the U.S. team and trying to get back into form after missing the two World Cups.

"[The WCAP athletes] didn't get to go to Russia for the team trip in the fall," she said. "It wasn't my first time getting denied access to Russia, but when we got denied then, they said we're still going to work on the World Cup because we know how important that is. Those were huge opportunities for us to qualify, not only personally but also [to qualify] sleds for the United States [for the Olympics]. It was a huge missed opportunity.

"As a soldier, I respect and understand the sense of accountability and responsibility that people have for me. Any time I travel, I have to get authorization to enter countries. But as an athlete and competitor, having to sit out was crushing."

She has her sled, but she doesn't have some of her equipment. Boxes

of luge equipment and sleds from different countries were stuck in China since the World Cup. Sweeney's boyfriend, Dominik Fischnaller of Italy, won the World Cup sprint race Dec. 5 in Sochi using a borrowed sled because his is in China. The boxes finally arrived Saturday in Germany.

"I have something that is mine to race on," she said earlier in the week. "But I'm limited a little bit. This whole year has just been wild."

If Sweeney makes the team, her parents will not be going to China because no foreign spectators are allowed. They will be cheering from the luge track in Lake Placid.

"She's rolling with the punches," her mother said. "She has a way of keeping a good perspective, like, 'I have it tough but look at this other person who has it tougher.' That's her way of looking at the world."

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R&D

Safety Tip of the Day

When your child gets a new toy this holiday season, always check the age rating on the box. They are there to protect young children from toys that might put them in danger.

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NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

Clemson wins NCAA soccer crown

Isaiah Reid scored twice, including a goal just 27 seconds into the match, and Clemson defeated Washington 2-0 to win the NCAA College Cup championship on Sunday in Cary, North Carolina. It was Clemson's third national championship. The Tigers also won in 1984 and 1987. Washington goalkeeper Sam Fowler was caught out of position and Reid easily scored his first just moments into the match. Reid scored again on a header in the 15th minute. A junior, Reid finished the season with nine goals, including a pair of two-goal games. Washington struggled in the final third after the early Clemson goal put the Huskies on their heels. Clemson goalkeeper George Marks had a pair of saves, including one in the final minutes as Washington scrambled to score. The Tigers dogpiled in celebration at the final whistle and fans streamed on to the field in a flurry of confetti. Clemson was playing in its fifth national championship game. The last appearance came in 2015, when the Tigers fell to Stanford. Clemson advanced on a penalty shootout after a 1-1 draw with Notre Dame in the semifinals. Washington, making its first-ever College Cup appearance, beat Georgetown 2-1 on Friday night at Wake Med Soccer Park to advance.

76ers delay Curry's bid for record



Stephen Curry had one 3-point shot swatted away out of nowhere by Matisse Thybulle and the 76ers defender got him again on a block that sent the ball flying. That left Curry with the rarest of stat lines: 3-pointers, three; shots blocked, two. Stifled by Thybulle,

Curry's chase for the NBA 3-point mark goes on. "I try to keep it out of my head and just play basketball," Curry said. The 76ers delayed Curry's bid to break Ray Allen's career 3-point record in a 102-93 victory over the Warriors on Saturday night in Philadelphia. "That was not happening on my court," Joel Embiid said. "That was not happening in Philly." Curry was largely shut down over 36 minutes by Thybulle, who made just his sixth start of the season, strictly to blanket the guard. Curry was 6 of 20 from the floor. He scored 18 points and shot 3 of 14 from 3-point range to move within six of matching Allen's record. Curry's next shot at the record is Monday night against the Pacers in the second game of a five-game trip. He needed nine 3s against the 76ers to tie Allen's mark of 2,973 regular-season 3s from 1996-2014.

Peña upsets Nunes, claims UFC belt

Julianna Peña didn't even realize Amanda Nunes had tapped out of Peña's chokehold until somebody told her in the cage moments after the referee pulled her off the long-reigning champion. One of the biggest upsets in UFC history might have been a surprise in the moment for Peña, but she had never stopped believing she could do the nearly impossible. "Everybody was sleeping on me, and I shook up the world," Peña said. "But I'm not surprised. I have a big heart and determination." Peña stopped Nunes by submission with a rear naked choke in the second round at UFC 269 on Saturday night in Las Vegas, claiming the bantamweight title from the long-reigning two-division champion in a 10-to-1 upset. Charles Oliveira also defended his lightweight title for the first time with a third-round stoppage victory over Dustin Poirier by standing rear naked choke in the main event. But the night belonged to the 32-year-old Peña (11-4), who was a massive underdog against an opponent widely considered the greatest fighter in the history of women's mixed martial arts. Nunes, 33, had won 12 consecutive fights since 2014 and reigned simultaneously atop the 135-pound bantamweight and 145-pound featherweight divisions for three years.

AUTO RACING

First title comes with a twist

Controversial late ruling gives Verstappen F1 championship

By Jenna Fryer Associated Press

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates -The most dramatic Formula One season in years should have ended with Max Verstappen's championship-deciding pass of Lewis Hamilton on the final lap of the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

The conclusion instead came nearly five hours after Verstappen became the first Dutch champion in F1 history, when the FIA denied a pair of protests lodged by Mercedes over the controversial finish of Sunday's race.

But the messy affair still isn't over: Mercedes filed for reconsideration to the International Court of Appeal, turning in the paperwork as Hamilton left Yas Marina Circuit without commenting.

"Not much really to say about that. I think it also sums up a little bit the season," Verstappen said hours earlier as the FIA heard Mercedes' two protests.

Hamilton had a record eighth championship ripped away with five laps remaining when a crash by Nicholas Latifi triggered the safety car and gave race director Michael Masi a decision. The season-ending race and championship could be decided under yellow, or, the track could be cleaned for one final lap of racing.

Hamilton had been on cruise control and dominated Sunday after surging past pole-sitter Verstappen at the start. He led 51 of the 58 laps and was minutes away from breaking a tie with Michael Schumacher for an eighth title that would strengthen his case as best in F1 history.

The decision by Masi to go green with a lap to go allowed Verstappen to pass Hamilton in turn five — Hamilton got a good look at the lead in turn nine but couldn't complete the move — in a stunning conclusion to a title fight that will go down as one of the best ever.

Verstappen and Hamilton arrived in Abu Dhabi tied in the standings after 21 races across four continents, the first time since 1974 the contenders were level ahead of the finale. The rivals went wheel-to-wheel all season, crashing three times with Verstappen sent to the hospital after a collision at Silverstone.

It made for a bitter feud between Mercedes and Red Bull that intensified this high-stakes and sometimes chaotic title fight. It was compelling action every week, on-and-off track drama likened to the epic championship battles of James Hunt and Niki Lauda in 1976, and Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost in 1990.

Hamilton, winner of three straight races coming into the finale to even the fight, had this one in hand until the Latifi crash.

Masi controversially settled to resume racing with one final lap — the only chance for Red Bull, which lobbied to go back to green. Verstappen chased Hamilton through



Max Verstappen, center, celebrates with members of his team after winning his first career Formula One title on Sunday. HASSAN AMMAR/AP

the first four turns, made his pass in five and at last achieved his childhood dream.

Verstappen and Red Bull celebrated in a champagne soak, he received hugs from his fellow competitors and made his way to the DJ stand to jump wildly up and down to the music. The "Orange Army" of Dutch fans erupted in jov.

"My goal when I was little was to become a Formula One driver and to go for wins, to be on the podium," said Verstappen. "When they play the national anthem, you want it to be yours, and when you stand here and they tell you that you are the world champion, it's something incredible and special."

And that was how this gripping season ended, with the more dominant team atop the final podium.

Verstappen's 10 victories this year equaled the number of wins scored over his first six seasons in F1, and he led an F1-high 652 of the 1,211 laps while scoring 18 podium

Hamilton didn't participate in the postrace news conference with Verstappen and third-place finisher Carlos Sainz. He did one interview before the victory podium and congratulated Verstappen and Red Bull.

Hamilton, who turns 37 next month, used a late season surge to knock all 19 points off Verstappen's lead in the standings. But his eight wins this season are the fewest for Hamilton since 2013, when he only won once and finished fourth in the standings.

He praised the effort of Mercedes. Red Bull won its first F1 title since 2013; Mercedes had won every one since.

Hamilton received a long hug from his father, who then went to the Red Bull garage and hugged both Verstappen and Verstappen's father. Jos Verstappen was himself a former F1 driver and raised his 24-year-old son to become a world champion.

It took Verstappen seven seasons to make it to the top - he was the youngest driver in series history when he debuted at age 17, and the youngest winner when he won the next season at 18 — and he savored it with "Jos The Boss." His father had not even made it to congratulate his son before he'd pulled on a championship sweatshirt.

Jos Verstappen was winless in 107 races over eight seasons.

With my dad, traveling through all of Europe, for that one goal to be in the Formula One, to hope that you can win a race and hear your national anthem, and then the ultimate goal is the world championship, which is very hard to achieve," said Verstappen.

Mission accomplished.

Mercedes loses 2 protests after finale

By Jerome Pugmire Associated Press

Mercedes lost both of its protests after Lewis Hamilton lost the Formula One world title to Max Verstappen on the final lap of the last race at the season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix on Sunday.

After losing the protests, Mercedes filed for reconsideration to the International Court of Appeal.

Verstappen overtook Hamilton on Lap 58 in thrilling style after a crash involving Nicholas Latifi brought out the safety car with just a few laps left and confusion surrounded

One of the lost protests was whether Verstappen had broken rules by passing Hamilton before the safety car period had ended, when they were jostling next to each other waiting for the restart.

"Although Car 33 (Verstappen) did at one stage, for a very short period of time, move slightly in front of Car 44 (Hamilton), at a time when both cars where accelerating and braking, it moved back behind Car 44," stewards concluded. "It was not in front when the Safety Car period ended (i.e. at the line). Accordingly, the Protest is dismissed."

Of the lapped drivers, only Lando Norris, Fernando Alonso, Esteban Ocon, Charles Leclerc and Sebastian Vettel overtook those five were originally between Hamilton and Verstappen — while Daniel Ricciardo,

Lance Stroll and Mick Schumacher did not. Mercedes argued Hamilton would have won the race if all had overtaken the safety car due to the time required, making a final lap showdown impossible. Stewards ruled that it made no difference since the other three were not interfering with the

outcome of the race, and also that race direc-

tor Michael Masi had authority "to control the use of the safety car" in this case.

Before Latifi's crash, Hamilton was coast-

ing to world title No. 8. There had already been one virtual safety car deployed earlier in the race for a smaller crash, but this time the real one came out with little time left to remove Latifi's car and

clear debris off the track. Verstappen's Red Bull team decided to pit him to switch to new tires while Mercedes stayed out to keep track position. But it ultimately left Hamilton at Verstappen's mercy on far quicker, fresh tires than Hamilton's fading, slower ones. They were supposed to take him over the line, but in the end they couldn't hold off Verstappen.

Initially, the decision was taken not to let lapped cars overtake the safety car, which would have meant several drivers would have been in Verstappen's way at the restart and made it more difficult to reach Hamilton over one lap.

Red Bull team principal Christian Horner was in radio contact with Masi at that point and said "(But) we only need one lap" to finish a race properly.

Masi then reversed the call to allow lapped cars to pass and set up that final lap of racing.

The other protest was for the way Verstappen drove before the restart. He pulled right alongside Hamilton near the end of Lap 57 and fractionally ahead on Lap 58.

The regulations say "no driver may overtake another car, including the safety car, until he passes the line for the first time after the safety car has returned to the pits."

Mercedes had lodged their protests within the 30-minute window after the race.

The team said it would "not make any further comment on the detail of that until the hearing has been conducted."

WINTER SPORTS

Connecticut high schools eye 1st full season since '19

By Lori Riley Hartford Courant

The Connecticut high school winter season is slated to be the first full winter sports season for all sports since 2019.

The winter season will open starting Monday with girls basketball and ice hockey. Boys basketball, boys swimming and indoor track start Thursday, and wrestling begins on Wednesday after a year's hiatus. Gymnastics will start next week.

The 2020 season was cut short by COVID-19, just as the conference and state tournaments were starting for boys and girls basketball, while indoor track and wrestling had finished their class meets and State Open championships.

Last winter, the season didn't start until early February, and teams played a shortened, regionalized schedule with no state tournaments.

Here's a look at the teams and players to watch this season.

Boys basketball

The big story is still Bristol Central and its 7-foot-1 center Donovan Clingan, who signed his letter of intent to play at UConn last month. After spectators were limited last season due to the COVID-19 pandemic, plenty of people will get a chance to see him play this year. The Rams will play games at Trinity College (Doc Hurley Class vs. Southington on Dec. 18), Mohegan Sun (The Day Holiday Classic Tournament vs. East Catholic Dec. 20), the XL Center (the Capital Classic vs. Windsor on Feb. 10) and Springfield College (Hoophall Classic at Springfield Central, Jan. 14).

"Obviously a lot of opportunities came because of Donovan, and a lot of people came knocking," Bristol Central coach Tim Barrette said. "The one thing I tried to do, I told his family, I would schedule the best competition I could if he stayed here, which he did for four years. So I had the opportunity to schedule these games and I did. There's a lot of pressure on us, obviously. We have a lot of high expectations for Donovan and the team I have returning."

Bristol Central went undefeated (15-0) last season and beat East Catholic 69-68 in overtime for the CCC tournament championship

East Catholic (14-1 last year) lost eight seniors who went 80-4 over their four-year career, but Eagles coach Luke Reilly expects his team to be competitive again.

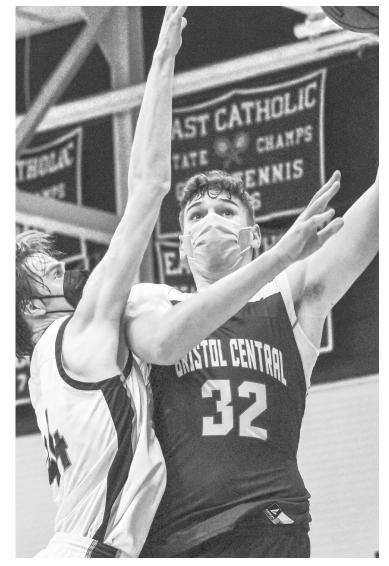
"We're really excited about the full season," Reilly said. "Last year, we made the best of it, but we're really looking forward to things being normal. Hopefully, we won't miss a beat."

Windsor also had a strong season least year, going 11-2 with its only losses to Northwest Catholic and Bristol Central. Northwest Catholic won 13 games and lost only one to Bristol Central in the CCC tournament.

Girls basketball

Newington was the CCC tournament champion last year, going undefeated (15-0) and beating Windsor in the conference final 54-40. The two finalists will pick up right where they left off in March with a season-opening game Tuesday at Newington.

Newington has four of its five starters returning, including senior guard Lilly Ferguson, who



Bristol Central's Donovan Clingan scored 33 points and pulled down 26 rebounds against East Catholic in the CCC championship game last winter, which Bristol Central won in overtime. The Rams will face East Catholic in a tournament at the Mohegan Sun Arena Dec. 20. FILE PHOTO

will play at UMass next year.

"We're excited to play a normal season, a 20-game schedule, to compete for a state tournament berth and state title," Newington coach Marc Tancredi said.

Newington will play its second game against E.O. Smith, which had its season end prematurely last year due to a COVID issue.

Other top local teams are: East Hartford, who returns senior Shailyn Pinkney, last year's state Gatorade Player of the Year who will play at Seton Hall next year; East Hampton, which went undefeated and won the Shoreline Conference last season and Suffield, which won its first NCCC title since 2017 last year.

Hockey

Northwest Catholic went 9-0-1-1 last year during the shortened season after going to the Division I state semifinals in 2019. and The Lions should be one of the top local teams again this year.

Sheehan (11-2) fell to North Haven in the SCC Div. 2 semi-finals last season and lost the Romano twins, Anthony and Joseph, Luke Festa and Joe Richo to graduation. The Newington co-op also won 11 of 13 games last year, including a five-overtime 3-2 win over Wethersfield.

Wrestling

Wrestling and football were the only two sports not contested at all last year, and the wrestlers are happy to get back to competition.

"We ran and we lifted, that's all we did," Berlin coach Pete Veleas said. "Three times a week. I had about 17 kids. I thought last year was going to be a breakout year for us. We had a group of seniors, but we lost the season and it was disappointing. It would have been a good stepping stone for us."

Berlin opens with Manchester on Wednesday.

"Some of my kids it's appara

"Some of my kids, it's apparent we had a year off," he said. "They're just not moving correctly, they're not reacting properly—it's going to come, you gotta get the reps back."

Xavier and Simsbury finished 1-2 in the Class L tournament in 2020 and third and fourth in the State Open. The two teams are expected to be solid again.

Indoor track, gymnastics, boys swimming

■ Conard senior Gavin Sherry was leading part of the race at the Eastbay national cross country championship in San Diego Saturday but finished third. His goal was to win and said he would be fired up for indoor track so some records will likely fall.

Sherry and his twin brother Callum should excel at the distance races for Conard. Manchester's Aidan Puffer, who finished 13th at the national cross country meet, will be in the distance mix as well. Bloomfield was the 2020 boys State Open indoor champion and Glastonbury won the girls title.

■ Southington, which won the 2020 State Open gymnastics title, had a limited schedule last season and graduated two top seniors in Kelly Perrotti and Natalie Reeves.

■ Boys swimming will have the class meets and State Open for the first time in two years. The season was cut short in 2020 by the COVID-19 pandemic, and last winter's schedule was shortened and regionalized with no tournament. Greenwich won the 2019 State Open championship.

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BUCKS 112, KNICKS 97

Balanced Bucks cruise past short-handed NY

By Denis P. Gorman Associated Press

NEW YORK — Khris Middleton scored 24 points and Giannis Antetokounmpo had his first triple-double of the season to lead the Milwaukee Bucks to a 112-97 victory over the short-handed New York Knicks on Sunday.

One of seven Bucks in double-digit scoring, Antetokounmpo had 20 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds. Bobby Portis Jr. added 19 points, Rodney Hood had 14, Jrue Holliday chipped in 13, Grayson Allen contributed 12 and Pat Connaughton netted 10.

"We're seeing different guys come in and make plays and make shots," Allen said. "Different guys are going off each night or there will be stretches when somebody hits some big shots. Tonight it was (Portis) for a stretch, then (Hood) coming in and getting 14 off the bench. That's huge."

Milwaukee (18-10) never trailed as it won its second straight game and 10th out of 12 overall.

"We talk a lot about being unselfish and making the right play, having high-IQ guys that are willing to make the right pass," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said. "It was a good team effort."

New York (12-15) has lost three in a row and seven of 10.

In his first NBA start, Quentin Grimes scored 27 for the Knicks and set a team record for the most 3-pointers made in a game by a rookie with seven. Grimes' 27 points were the most points by a Knicks rookie in a game since 1996-97.

"I always prepare myself for a moment like this," Grimes said. "But it was definitely a surreal moment and I was just trying to soak it all in."

Derrick Rose and Kevin Knox scored 18 points apiece, and Immanuel Quickley finished with

The third of four regular-season matchups between the Eastern Conference franchises reinforced why the Bucks and Knicks exist on significantly different plains in the NBA strata.

Milwaukee came out firing on all cylinders, with the Bucks leading 9-1 4:07 into the game and 26-16 at the end of the first quarter. The lead was stretched to 54-33 after Portis' three-point play with 4:28 left in the second quarter. At halftime, Milwaukee had a 61-48 advantage.

"Turnovers in the first half really hurt us," said New York coach Tom Thibodeau, whose team committed nine turnovers in the first two quarters, which led to 20 points for Milwaukee. "You give a team like that points like that, it's hard to make up."

But the Knicks fought back behind Grimes and Rose in the third quarter. Grimes scored 12 points, all on 3s, Rose had 10 and New York cut the deficit to nine on three separate occasions.

That was as close as it would get. Milwaukee outscored New York 6-1 over the final 1:26 of the quarter and pushed the advantage to 19 after Antetokounmpo's floater with 5:49 left in the game.

"We just have a great team," Hood said.

PREDATORS 1, RANGERS 0

Saros, Tomasino lead Predators past Rangers

Nashville sweeps three New York area teams, wins fifth straight

By Allan Kreda Associated Press

NEW YORK — Rookie forward Philip Tomasino scored early in the second period and Juuse Saros made 32 saves for his second shutout of the season as the Nashville Predators beat the New York Rangers 1-0 on Sunday night.

The Predators have won five straight, including a sweep of the three New York area teams over a four-day stretch. They beat the Islanders 4-3 on Thursday night and New Jersey 3-2 on Friday night.

Saros had six saves in the first period, 10 in the second and 16 in the third to pick up his 16th career shutout.

Alexandar Georgiev had 23 saves for the Rangers, who lost for the second time in three games and just the third in the last 15.

After a scoreless first period, Tomasino scored his fifth goal of the season at 1:44 of the second with assists to Filip Forsberg and defenseman Alexandre Carrier. Forsberg has 11 points — seven goals, four assists — in his last 10 games.

The 20-year-old Tomasino, a first-round draft pick the Predators in 2019, was able to elude Georgiev with a shot from just inside the blue line.

blue line.
The goal held up as Saros stood tall in the third period.

The Rangers had a power-play chance at 6:25 of the third but

Saros stymied Ryan Strome from in close with a right pad stop, then denied Strome again with a glove save.

Nashville was without one of its top scorers, Ryan Johansen, who missed the game after he was placed on the COVID-19 protocol list on Sunday. Johansen has three goals and 12 assists in his last 11 games.

Hard hits

The game included another open-ice hit by Rangers defenseman Jacob Trouba, who collided shoulder-first with Nashville's Luke Kunin late in the second period.

Last Tuesday at Chicago, Trouba appeared to drive his right shoulder into the chin of Jujhar Khaira, sending the Blackhawks' forward to the hospital and into concussion protocol. The next night at home against Colorado, Trouba hit Avalanche star Nathan MacKinnon with a shoulder check midway through the second period. The Avalanche's Gabriel Landeskog immediately dropped his gloves and squared off against Trouba.

Milestone game

Rangers left wing Chris Kreider played his 600th NHL game and became the 22nd skater to play in 600 games for the franchise. The 30-year-old Kreider, who leads the Rangers with 17 goals this season, has 194 goals in his career. He is the 12th player from the first round of the 2009 draft to skate in 600 games. Kreider was the 19th overall selection.

BRUINS 4, FLAMES 2 LATE SATURDAY

Ullmark makes 40 saves, leads Bruins past Flames

Associated Press

CALGARY, Alberta — Linus Ullmark is on a roll, and so are the Boston Bruins.

Ullmark made 40 saves and Brad Marchand had a goal and an assist as the Bruins beat the Calgary Flames 4-2 Saturday night.

Ullmark has given up two or fewer goals in each of his last five starts, winning four of those games. He improved to 7-5-0.

"You have to be able to rely on your goalie to come up big if you want to be a good team," said Marchand. "He's got to be able to keep you in it when the other team's putting a lot of pressure on and make the big saves on the kill like he did tonight."

"He came up big, especially in the first two periods again where we were at times hemmed in our end zone a little bit too much," Bruins assistant coach Joe Sacco said of Ullmark. "He made the quality saves when we needed it."

Charlie McAvoy, Curtis Lazar, and Connor Clifton, with his first of the season, also scored for Boston. The Bruins have points in five straight games (3-0-2) and have gone seven consecutive games on the road (6-0-1) without a regulation loss.

Boston took five of six points on its western Canada trip.

"A lot of heart," said Ullmark, who as a free agent last summer signed a four-year, \$20-million deal with the Bruins. "We grinded

it out and whenever we had the opportunity to put one in, we did it."

Matthew Tkachuk and Sean Monahan scored for Calgary, which is winless in four games. Rasmus Andersson had two assists. Jacob Markstrom had 23 saves in the loss. He dropped to 10-6-5.

"(Ullmark) made some some big saves but at the end of the day, it's on us as a team to get to the dirty areas and go to the net and get those dirty goals," Monahan said.

Ullmark was the story for Boston

— from the opening puck drop.

After stopping all 15 shots he faced in the first period as the Bruins took the lead, he had to made five saves — including dangerous chances from in close

by Andrew Mangiapane and Milan Lucic — on an early second-period Flames power play that kept it 1-0.

The Bruins took control shortly after, surging in front 3-0 on goals 56 seconds apart from Marchand and McAvoy.

At 5:52, David Pastrnak gained the Flames zone, hung onto the puck as he curled back to get some separation from Andersson before getting a shot away that Marchand deftly struck out of the air and over Markstrom's glove.

McAvoy made it 3-0 when he slid in from the point undetected and used Flames defenseman Nikita Zadorov as a screen to pick the top corner.

The Flames cut the deficit to two at 12:19 of the second on the power

play. Tkachuk got the puck at the top of the crease after Andersson's point shot didn't get through and flipped it into the net for his 12th goal.

Tkachuk's goal snapped an 0-for-15 drought on the man-advantage.

Boston restored its two-goal cushion three minutes into the third when Markstrom couldn't control the rebound from Trent Frederic's original shot and seconds later, Lazar knocked the puck in for his second of the season.

Lazar was back in the line-up after being a healthy scratch last game.

It remained 4-1 until Monahan scored with 1:36 left in the third.

NFL

AFC

East	W	L	Т	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
New England	9	4	0	.692	350	200	3-4-0	6-0-0	7-1-0	2-3-0	3-1-0
Buffalo	7	6	0	.538	363	229	3-3-0	4-3-0	5-5-0	2-1-0	3-1-0
Miami	6	7	0	.462	254	288	4-3-0	2-4-0	4-5-0	2-2-0	2-2-0
N.Y. Jets	3	10	0	.231	226	397	2-5-0	1-5-0	3-6-0	0-4-0	0-4-0
South	w	L	т	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
Tennessee	9	4	0	.692	324	290	5-2-0	4-2-0	6-3-0	3-1-0	4-1-0
Indianapolis	7	6	0	.538	371	283	3-4-0	4-2-0	6-3-0	1-3-0	3-2-0
Houston	2	11	0	.154	177	356	1-6-0	1-5-0	2-7-0	0-4-0	2-2-0
Jacksonville	2	11	0	.154	180	340	2-5-0	0-6-0	2-6-0	0-5-0	0-4-0
North	w	L	т	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
Baltimore	8	5	0	.615	304	284	5-1-0	3-4-0	5-5-0	3-0-0	1-3-0
Cincinnati	7	6	0	.538	354	293	3-4-0	4-2-0	5-3-0	2-3-0	3-1-0
Cleveland	7	6	0	.538	278	289	5-2-0	2-4-0	4-5-0	3-1-0	2-2-0
Pittsburgh	6	6	1	.500	272	322	4-2-1	2-4-0	4-4-0	2-2-1	2-2-0
West	w	L	т	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
Kansas City	9	4	0	.692	351	268	6-2-0	3-2-0	4-4-0	5-0-0	3-1-0
L.A. Chargers	8	5	0	.615	351	336	4-3-0	4-2-0	5-3-0	3-2-0	2-1-0
Denver	7	6	0	.538	275	228	4-3-0	3-3-0	3-5-0	4-1-0	1-2-0
Las Vegas	6	7	0	.462	283	360	3-4-0	3-3-0	4-4-0	2-3-0	1-3-0

East	W	L	Т	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
Dallas	9	4	0	.692	380	287	4-2-0	5-2-0	2-3-0	7-1-0	3-0-0
Philadelphia	6	7	0	.462	337	291	1-4-0	5-3-0	2-3-0	4-4-0	0-2-0
Washington	6	7	0	.462	266	324	3-4-0	3-3-0	1-4-0	5-3-0	1-1-0
N.Y. Giants	4	9	0	.308	232	310	3-3-0	1-6-0	1-4-0	3-5-0	1-2-0
South	w	L	т	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
Tampa Bay	10	3	0	.769	410	297	6-0-0	4-3-0	4-0-0	6-3-0	2-1-0
Atlanta	6	7	0	.462	245	353	1-5-0	5-2-0	3-1-0	3-6-0	2-3-0
New Orleans	6	7	0	.462	304	285	2-4-0	4-3-0	2-2-0	4-5-0	1-2-0
Carolina	5	8	0	.385	257	282	2-5-0	3-3-0	2-2-0	3-6-0	2-1-0
North	w	L	Т	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
Green Bay	9	3	0	.750	283	242	5-0-0	4-3-0	2-1-0	7-2-0	2-1-0
Minnesota	6	7	0	.462	344	333	4-2-0	2-5-0	2-3-0	4-4-0	2-1-0
Chicago	4	8	0	.333	201	207	2-4-0	2-4-0	2-3-0	2-5-0	2-1-0
- · · ·			- 0	.555	201	287	2-4-0	2-4-0	2-3-0	2-3-0	
Detroit	1	11	1	.115	213	354	1-5-0	0-6-1	0-4-1	1-7-0	1-4-0
West	1 W										
		11	1	.115	213	354	1-5-0	0-6-1	0-4-1	1-7-0	1-4-0
West	w	11 L	1 T	.115 Pct	213 PF	354 PA	1-5-0 Home	0-6-1 Away	0-4-1 AFC	1-7-0 NFC	1-4-0 Div
West Arizona	W	11 L 2	1 T 0	.115 Pct .833	213 PF 343	354 PA 224	1-5-0 Home 3-2-0	0-6-1 Away 7-0-0	0-4-1 AFC 4-0-0	1-7-0 NFC 6-2-0	1-4-0 Div 4-0-0
West Arizona L.A. Rams	W 10 8	11 L 2 4	1 T 0 0	.115 Pct .833 .667	213 PF 343 336	354 PA 224 270	1-5-0 Home 3-2-0 4-2-0	0-6-1 Away 7-0-0 4-2-0	0-4-1 AFC 4-0-0 3-1-0	1-7-0 NFC 6-2-0 5-3-0	1-4-0 Div 4-0-0 1-2-0

ROUNDUP

Chiefs win 6th straight

Patrick Mahomes threw his first two touchdown passes in nearly a month. Clyde Edwards-Helaire added two more scores on the ground, and the Chiefs forced five turnovers in rolling to a record-setting 48-9 victory over the Raiders on Sunday in Kansas City, Missouri.

Derrick Gore's 51-yard TD run with 7:19 left in the fourth quarter allowed the Chiefs (9-4) to eclipse the largest margin of victory in a series that began in 1960. The previous record was 35 points in 1964.

Tyrann Mathieu had a pick and fumble recovery, Mike Hughes returned another fumble 23 yards for a TD, and the reigning AFC champions built a 35-0 firsthalf lead before cruising to their sixth consecutive win.

They've won eight of their last nine against the Raiders (6-7).

Browns 24, Ravens 22: Baker Mayfield threw two TD passes and the host Browns stayed held on to stay in the thick of the playoff race. The Ravens lost OB Lamar Jackson to an ankle injury.

Cowboys 27, WFT 20: Micah Parsons sacked Taylor Heinicke twice and forced a fumble that was returned for a TD as the visiting Cowboys ended Washington's win streak at four.

Titans 20, Jaguars 0: Rashaan Evans, Jayon Brown, Kristian Fulton and Buster Skrine picked off passes from Trevor Lawrence, and the host Titans rebounded after two losses in a row. The Jags lost their fifth straight.

Falcons 29, Panthers 21: Matt Ryan threw for 190 yards and a score, Mykal Walker returned an INT 66 yards for a TD and the Falcons improved to 6-2 on the road.

Seahawks 33, Texans 13: The visiting Seahawks won two games in a row for the first time this season. Tyler Lockett scored and finished the victory with 142 yards receiving to give him 1,023 vards this season. He joins Hall of Famer Steve Largent as the only players in franchise history to have at least 1,000 yards receiving in three straight seasons.

Saints 30, Jets 9: Alvin Kamara ran for 120 yards and a TD in his return from a four-game injury absence, and the Saints snapped a five-game losing streak. The host Jets will miss the playoffs for the 11th straight season, tying the franchise mark.

Broncos 38, Lions 10: RBs Javonte Williams and Melvin Gordon each scored a pair of TDs and Dre'Mont Jones recorded two sacks of Lions QB Jared Goff to lift the Broncos at home.



Derrick Gore runs for a 51-yard TD during the Chiefs' 48-9 rout of the Raiders on Sunday in Kansas City. ED ZURGA/AP

Chargers 37, Giants 21: Justin Herbert threw for three TDs for the host Chargers. Herbert became the first player to reach 30 TD passes in his first two seasons and also has the most completions through his first two seasons (734): and he's the second-fastest player to reach 8,000 career yards (28 games).

49ers 26, Bengals 23: Jimmy Garoppolo threw a 12-vard TD pass to Brandon Aiyuk and the 49ers prevailed on the road. Evan McPherson hit a 41-yard FG in the opening possession of OT to give the Bengals a brief lead.

Buccaneers 33, Bills 27: Tom Brady threw his 700th career TD pass for the winning score as the Bucs beat the visiting Bills in OT. Brady threw for 363 yards and two TDs, and scored on a QB sneak. The Bucs won it on Breshad Perriman's 58-yard catch-and-run.

WEEK 14

SUNDAY'S RESULTS Atlanta 29, Carolina 21 Cleveland 24, Baltimore 22 Dallas 27, Washington 20 Kansas City 48, Las Vegas 9 New Orleans 30, N.Y. Jets 9 Seattle 33, Houston 13 Tennessee 20. Jacksonville 0 Denver 38, Detroit 10 L.A. Chargers 37, N.Y. Giants 21 San Francisco 26, Cincinnati 23(OT)

Tampa Bay 33, Buffalo 27 (OT) Chicago at Green Bay, late **MONDAY'S GAME** L.A. Rams at Arizona, 8:15p.m.

THURSDAY'S RESULT Minnesota 36, Pittsburgh 28 Off: Indianapolis, Miami New England, Philadelphia

WEEK 15

THURSDAY'S GAME Kansas City at L.A. Chargers, 8:20p.m.

SATURDAY'S GAMES Las Vegas at Cleveland, 4:30p.m. New England at Indianapolis, 8:20p.m.

SUNDAY, DEC. 19 Arizona at Detroit, 1p.m. Carolina at Buffalo, 1p.m. Dallas at N.Y. Giants, 1p.m. Houston at Jacksonville, 1p.m. N.Y. Jets at Miami, 1p.m. Tennessee at Pittsburgh, 1p.m. Washington at Philadelphia, 1p.m. Atlanta at San Francisco, 4:05p.m. Cincinnati at Denver, 4:05p.m. Green Bay at Baltimore, 4:25p.m. Seattle at L.A. Rams, 4:25p.m. New Orleans at Tampa Bay, 8:20p.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 20 Minnesota at Chicago, 8:15p.m.

SUMMARIES

CLEVELAND 24, BALTIMORE 22 0 6 3 13 - 22 10 14 0 0 - 24 First Ouarter Cle: FG McLaughlin 43, 7:30. Cle: Landry 9pass from Mayfield (McLaughlin kick), :38. **Second Ouarter** Cle: Hooper 1 pass from Mayfield (McLaughlin kick), 8:15. Bal: FG Tucker 50, 3:30. Cle: Garrett 15fumble return (McLaughlin kick), :49. Bal: FG Tucker 42, :02. Third Quarter Bal: FG Tucker 55, 2:05. Fourth Quarter Bal: Murray 1run (pass failed), 8:56. Bal: Andrews 8pass from Huntley (Tucker kick), 1:17.

TEAM STATS	BAL	CLE
First downs	21	20
Total net yards	389	290
Rushes-yards	23-118	29-100
Passing	271	190
Punt returns	0-0	5-15
Kickoff returns	3-54	3-40
Interceptions ret.	1-21	0-0
Comp-att-int	31-42-0	22-32-1
Sacked-yards lost	4-16	0-0
Punts	5-45.6	5-39.2
Fumbles-lost	2-2	2-0
Penalties-yards	10-115	4-42
Time of possession	26:10	33:50

Huntley 6-45, L.Jackson 2-5, Duvernay 1-3, Murray 1-1. Cleveland, Chubb 17-59, D.Johnson 4-22, Mayfield 6-14, PASSING: Baltimore, Huntley 27-38-0-270, L.Jackson 4-4-0-17, Cleveland, Mayfield 22-32-1-190.
RECEIVING: Baltimore, Andrews 11-115, Bateman 7-103, Brown 5-41, Freeman 5-8, Duvernay 2-14, Oliver 1-6. Cleveland, Peoples-Jones 5-90, Landry 5-41, Hooper 5-30, Chubb 3-6, Hunt 2-13,

RUSHING: Baltimore. Freeman 13-64.

TENNESSEE 20, JACKSONVILLE 0 Jacksonville

D.Johnson 1-7, Janovich 1-3.

MISSED FIELD GOALS: Cleveland,

First Quarter Ten: Foreman 5 run (Bullock kick). 10:03. Second Quarter Ten: FG Bullock 44, 3:10. Third Quarter **Ten:** Tannehill 5 run (Bullock kick), 2:51. Fourth Quarter Ten: FG Bullock 29, 2:20. A: 67,808.

TEAM STATS	JAC	TEN
First downs	9	22
Total net yards	192	263
Rushes-yards	8-8	34-102
Passing	184	161
Punt returns	0-0	3-13
Kickoff returns	1-16	1-25
Interceptions ret.	0-0	4-20
Comp-att-int	24-40-4	20-31-0
Sacked-yards lost	3-37	4-30
Punts	5-45.0	5-38.4
Fumbles-lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties-yards	9-79	2-15
Time of possession	23:03	36:57

RUSHING: Jacksonville, J.Robinson 6-4. Hyde 1-2, Lawrence 1-2. Tennessee, Foreman 13-47, Tannehill 4-29, McNichols 8-16, Hilliard 6-13, Woodside 3-(-3). **PASSING:** Jacksonville, Lawrence 24-40-4-221. Tennessee, Tannehill 20-31-0-191.

RECEIVING: Jacksonville, M.Jones 6-70, Treadwell 4-68, Shenault 4-34, O'Shaugh nessy 4-21, Austin 3-17, Ogunbowale 2-5, Hyde 1-6. Tennessee, Firkser 4-34, Ju.Jones 4-33, Swaim 3-45, Westbrook-lkhine 3-31, Foreman 2-15, Rogers 1-13, McMath 1-9, Hollister 1-6, Pruitt 1-5. TACKLES-ASSISTS-SACKS: Jacksonville, Wilson 6-4-1, Robertson-Harris 3-1-1, Smoot 2-0-1, Ward 1-0-1. Tennessee, Fulton 3-1-0, Skrine 3-1-0, Simmons 3-0-0, Landry 2-1-1, Roberson 2-1-1, Autry 2-0-1. INTERCEPTIONS: Ten, Skrine 1-17. J.Brown 1-2, R.Evans 1-1, Fulton 1-0. MISSED FIELD GOALS: Tennessee,

KANSAS CITY 48, LAS VEGAS 9 Las Vegas 0 3 6 0 - 9 Kansas City 14 21 3 10 - 48 First Quarte KC: Hughes 23fumble return (Butker kick), 14:43. KC: Williams 23pass from Mahomes (Butker kick), 3:43.

Second Ouarter KC: Edwards-Helaire 5run (Butker kick), 12:21. KC: Gordon 1pass from Mahomes tker kick), 6:20. KC: Edwards-Helaire 6run (Butker kick), 1:45. **Las:** FG Carlson 26, :00.

Third Quarter KC: FG Butker 54, 8:25. Las: Renfrow 4pass from Carr (kick failed), 3:34. Fourth Quarter KC: FG Butker 37, 9:52. KC: Gore 51run (Butker kick), 7:28.

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TEAM STATS	LAS	KC
First downs	19	21
Total net yards	293	372
Rushes-yards	12-44	30-132
Passing	249	240
Punt returns	1-6	1-11
Kickoff returns	4-73	1-25
Interceptions ret.	0-0	1-6
Comp-att-int	33-45-1	20-24-0
Sacked-yards lost	4-17	3-18
Punts	3-50.0	1-52.0
Fumbles-lost	5-4	1-0
Penalties-yards	9-85	8-63
Time of possession	26:32	33:31
	First downs Total net yards Rushes-yards Passing Punt returns Kickoff returns Interceptions ret. Comp-att-int Sacked-yards lost Puntts Fumbles-lost Penalties-yards	First downs 19 Total net yards 293 Rushes-yards 12-44 Passing 249 Punt returns 1-6 Kickoff returns 4-73 Interceptions ret. 0-0 Comp-att-int 33-45-1 Sacked-yards lost 4-17 Punts 3-50.0 Fumbles-lost 5-4 Penalties-yards 9-85

RUSHING: LV, Jacobs 9-24, Ragas 1-9, Barber 1-7, Leavitt 1-4, KC, Gore 9-66, Edwards-Helaire 10-37, Mahomes 4-20, Williams 2-8, Burton 1-3, Hardman 1-0,

Henne 3-(-2). **PASSING:** Las Vegas, Carr 33-45-1-266. Kansas City, Mahomes 20-24-0-258. **RECEIVING:** Las Vegas, Renfrow 13-117, Jacobs 5-46, Jones 5-28, Moreau 3-13, Edwards 2-24, Barber 2-13, Ragas 2-6, Jackson 1-19. Kansas City, Hill 4-76, Williams 3-31, Kelce 3-27, Edwards-He-laire 3-5, Hardman 2-59, Gore 2-23, Gordon 2-9, Pringle 1-28.

L.A. CHARGERS 37, N.Y. GIANTS 21 N.Y. Giants 7 0 0 14 - 21 L.A. Chargers 7 17 6 7 - 37 First Quarter LAC: Ekeler 1run (Hopkins kick), 4:50. NYG: Penny 3pass from Glennon (Gano Second Quarter LAC: Palmer 12pass from Herbert (Hopkins kick), 12:13. LAC: FG Hopkins 27, 4:15. LAC: Guyton 59pass from Herbert (Hopkins kick), :25. Third Quarter LAC: FG Hopkins 28, 9:36. LAC: FG Hopkins 28, 9:36.
LAC: FG Hopkins 39, 5:05.
Fourth Quarter
LAC: Cook I pass from Herbert
(Hopkins kick), 9:28.
NYG: Barkley 18pass from Glennon

TEAM STATS	NYG	LAC
First downs	20	26
Total net yards	317	423
Rushes-yards	26-136	37-152
Passing	181	271
Punt returns	1-0	0-0
Kickoff returns	2-34	1-29
Interceptions ret.	0-0	1-0
Comp-att-int	17-37-1	23-31-0
Sacked-yards lost	2-10	2-4
Punts	5-45.6	3-26.0
Fumbles-lost	1-1	0-0
Penalties-yards	3-20	6-40
Time of possession	25:40	34:20

NYG: Glennon 7run (Penny run), 1:27.

(pass failed), 4:39.

RUSHING: N.Y. Giants, Barkley 16-64. Booker 8-57, Penny 1-8, Glennon 1-7. L.A. Chargers, Ekeler 12-67, Jackson 9-35, Kelley 10-33, Herbert 4-19, Daniel 2-(-2). **PASSING:** N.Y. Giants, Glennon 17-36-1-191, Dixon 0-1-0-0. L.A. Chargers, Herbert 23-31-0-275. RECEIVING: N.Y. Giants. Booker 4-28 RECEIVING: N.Y. Glants, Booker 4-28, Barkley 3-31, Rudolph 2-66, Shep-ard 2-27, Golladay 2-15, Engram 1-8, Ross 1-7, Cooper 1-6, Penny 1-3. L.A. Chargers, Williams 6-61, Palmer 5-66,

Guvton 3-87, Ekeler 2-17, Parham 2-13,

Cook 2-8. Anderson 1-11. Jackson 1-7.

NEW ORLEANS 30, N.Y. JETS 9 New Orleans 3 7 3 17 — 30 N.Y. Jets 0 6 0 3 — 9 First Ouarter NO: FG Maher 23, 6:37. Second Quarter NYJ: FG Pineiro 36, 10:01. NO: Kamara 16run (Maher kick), 3:42. NYJ: FG Pineiro 46, :00. **Third Quarter** NO: FG Maher 31.:58. Fourth Quarter

NO: FG Maher 37, 12:22.

Time of possession

NO: Hill 2run (Maher kick), 5:28. NYJ: FG Pineiro 36, 3:29.

NO: Hill 44run (Maher kick), 1:07.				
TEAM STATS	NO	NYJ		
First downs	21	13		
Total net yards	342	256		
Rushes-yards	44-201	17-78		
Passing	141	178		
Punt returns	4-54	3-44		
Kickoff returns	0-0	5-139		
Interceptions ret.	0-0	0-0		
Comp-att-int	15-21-0	19-42-0		
Sacked-yards lost	3-34	3-24		
Punts	5-51.6	6-52.167		
Fumbles-lost	2-0	0-0		
Penalties-yards	4-42	5-45		

RUSHING: New Orleans, Kamara 27-120, Hill 11-71, Jones 6-10, N.Y. Jets, Wilson 4-33, Perine 7-28, T.Johnson 6-17, PASSING: New Orleans, Hill 15-21-0-175. N.Y. Jets. Wilson 19-42-0-202. RECEIVING: New Orleans, Kamara 4-25, Vannett 3-44, Smith 3-33, Callaway 2-34, Jones 1-19, Johnson 1-15. E.Winston 1-5. N.Y. Jets, Berrios 6-52, T.John-son 4-40, Montgomery 3-36, Crowder 3-19. Griffin 2-28. Cole 1-27.

38:41

6:19

TACKLES-ASSISTS-SACKS: New Orleans, Davis 6-2-0, Adebo 5-0-0, Lattimore 5-0-0. M.Williams 4-1-0. Alexander 4-0-2, Jenkins 3-0-0, P.Williams 3-0-0, Granderson 2-0-1, Ringo 2-0-0, Roby 1-0-0. N.Y. Jets. Moslev 11-6-0. Ouinc Williams 5-3-0, Riley 4-6-0, Echols 4-0-0, J.Davis 3-1-0, Guidry 3-1-0, Rankins 3-1-0. Hall 3-0-0. K.Phillips 2-1-1. A.Davis 2-1-.5, S.Lawson 2-1-.5.

DENVER 38. DETROIT 10 0 10 0 0 - 10 14 3 14 7 - 38 First Quarter Den: Jav.Williams 5run (McManus kick), 9:46. Den: Gordon 1run (McManus kick), :53. Second Quarter

Det: Raymond 7 pass from Goff (Patterson kick), 12:31. **Det:** FG Patterson 36, 6:34. Den: FG McManus 52,:00. Third Quarter
Den: Jav.Williams 10pass from Bridge-

water (McManus kick), 11:03. Den: Gordon 14run (McManus kick), **Fourth Ouarter Den:** Okwuegbunam 4pass from Bridgewater (McManus kick), 1:51. A: 76.211.

TEAM STATS	DET	DEN
First downs	17	25
Total net yards	316	358
Rushes-yards	21-118	39-184
Passing	198	174
Punt returns	14	2-13
Kickoff returns	0-0	0-0
Interceptions ret.	0-0	1-0
Comp-att-int	24-39-1	18-25-0
Sacked-yards lost	2-17	1-5
Punts	2-53.0	3-43.333
Fumbles-lost	1-1	0-0
Penalties-yards	6-53	2-18
Time of possession	27:53	32:07

RUSHING: Detroit, C.Reynolds 11-83, Igwebuike 8-25, Goff 2-10. Denver, Gordon 24-111, J.Williams 15-73. PASSING: Detroit, Goff 24-39-1-215. Denver, Bridgewater 18-25-0-179. **RECEIVING:** Detroit, St. Brown 8-73, Raymond 4-31, J.Reynolds 3-52, Wright 3-20, Zylstra 2-18, C.Reynolds 2-16, Kennedy 1-7, Decker 1-(minus 2). Denver, Jeudy 5-47, Okwuegbunam 5-41, Fant 4-51, T.Patrick 2-21, J.Williams 1-10, Sutton 1-9.

TACKLES-ASSISTS-SACKS: Detroit, Woods 10-3-0, McNeill 1-3-1. Denver, Simmons 5-1-0, D.Jones 3-0-2. INTERCEPTIONS: Denver, Simmons 1-0. **SEATTLE 33. HOUSTON 13** 10 6 3 14 - 33 7 6 0 0 - 13 **Hou:** Jordan 5pass from Mills (Fairbairn kick), 11:02. Sea: FG Myers 38, 6:20. Sea: Penny 32run (Myers kick), :00. Second Quarter Hou: FG Fairbairn 21, 6:05. Sea: Lockett 55pass from R.Wilson (kick failed), :52. Hou: FG Fairbairn 61.:00. Third Quarter Sea: FG Myers 38, 4:32.

Sea: Everett 1pass from R.Wilson (Lockett pass from R.Wilson), 7:28.

Fourth Ouarter

Sea: Penny 47run (kick failed), 5:26. **TEAM STATS** First downs 20 453 Total net yards Rushes-yards 29-193 Passing Punt returns 260 317 1-2 4-93 2-31 Kickoff returns Interceptions ret. 0-0 0-0 Comp-att-int Sacked-yards lost 17-28-0 33-49-0 2-14 4-42.25 5-45.8 Punts 0-0 6-52 Fumbles-lost 1-0 8-69 Penalties-yards Time of possession 26:41 33:19

RUSHING: Seattle, Penny 16-137, Dallas 2-16, Collins 7-16, Everett 1-13, Wilson 2-8, Swain 1-3. Houston, Burkhead 11-40, Freeman 11-15, Mills 2-8, Dorsett 1-0. PASSING: Seattle, Wilson 17-28-0-260. Houston, Mills 33-49-0-331. **RECEIVING:** Seattle, Lockett 5-142, Metcalf 4-43, Dissly 2-38, Everett 2-15, Hart 1-16, Bellore 1-4, Collins 1-1, Penny 1-1. Houston, Cooks 8-101, Freeman 6-51, N.Collins 5-69, Burkhead 4-26, Jordan 4-26, Conley 2-20, Davis 1-17, Dorsett 1-9, Akins 1-6, Auclair 1-6. TACKLES-ASSISTS-SACKS: Seattle, Reed 7-1-0, Wagner 6-9-0, Woods 1-4-.5, Taylor 1-0-1, Green 0-2-.5. Houston, MISSED FIELD GOALS: None.

SAN FRANCISCO 26, CINCINNATI 23, OT San Francisco 3 14 3 Cincinnati 3 3 0 **First Ouarter SF:** FG Gould 33, 6:37. **Cin:** FG McPherson 37, :31. Second Ouarter Second Quarter
SF: Samuel 27run (Gould kick), 12:05.
Cin: FG McPherson 28, 1:42. SF: Kittle 14pass from Garoppolo (Gould kick), :18. Third Quarter SF: FG Gould 24, 7:43. **Fourth Ouarter** Cin: Chase 17 pass from Burrow (McPherson kick), 9:20. Cin: Chase 32 pass from Burrow (McPherson kick), 1:19. First Overtime

Cin: FG McPherson 41. 6:15.

SF: Aiyuk 12pass from Garoppolo, 1:53.			
TEAM STATS	SF	CIN	
First downs	21	22	
Total net yards	355	397	
Rushes-yards	23-100	26-86	
Passing	255	311	
Punt returns	2-4	5-21	
Kickoff returns	3-63	3-40	
Comp-att-int	27-41-0	25-34-0	
Sacked-yards lost	5-41	5-37	
Punts	7-41.571	4-43.25	
Fumbles-lost	2-0	4-2	
Penalties-yards	6-40	2-19	
Time of possession	33.50	34.17	

13-56, Samuel 8-37, Aiyuk 1-4, Garoppolo 1-3. Cincinnati, Mixon 18-58, Perine 4-11, Boyd 1-8, Chase 1-6, PASSING: San Francisco, Garoppolo 27-41-0-296, Cincinnati, Burrow 25-34-

RUSHING: San Francisco, Je.Wilson

RECEIVING: San Francisco, Kittle 13-151, Aivuk 6-62, Jennings 3-46, Hasty 3-10, Samuel 1-22, Juszczyk 1-5. Cincinnati, Higgins 5-114, Chase 5-77, Uzomah 4-56, Boyd 4-55, Perine 4-22, Mixon 2-10, D.Sample 1-14. MISSED FIELD GOALS: San Francisco,

Gould 47. Cincinnati, McPherson 46.

ATLANTA 29. CAROLINA 21 First Quarter Car: Newton 12 run (Gonzalez kick), 8:19. Atl: Patterson 5run (Koo kick), 3:03. Second Quarter
Atl: M.Walker 66interception return

(Koo kick), 8:35. Atl: FG Koo 32, 3:12. Third Ouarter **Car:** Hubbard 17 run (Gonzalez kick), 11:21. Atl: FG Koo 38, 6:28. Fourth Quarter
Atl: Hurst 3pass from Ryan (pass

failed), 14:17. Atl: FG Koo 48, 6:10. Car: Anderson 5pass from P.Walker (Gonzalez kick), 3:11. A: 72.243.

IEAM SIAIS	AIL	CAR
First downs	20	21
Total net yards	318	334
Rushes-yards	36-128	26-91
Passing	190	243
Punt returns	0-0	0-0
Kickoff returns	1-38	3-75
Interceptions ret.	2-66	0-0
Comp-att-int	19-28-0	21-35-2
Sacked-yards lost	0-0	1-10
Punts	2-55.0	2-43.5
Fumbles-lost	1-1	3-1
Penalties-yards	6-60	6-45
Time of possession	34:36	25:24

RUSHING: Atlanta, Patterson 16-58. Davis 11-44, Ollison 5-23, Ryan 4-3. Carolina, Newton 10-47, Hubbard 10-33, Abdullah 4-16, Walker 2-(minus 5). PASSING: Atlanta, Ryan 19-28-0-190. Carolina, Newton 15-23-1-178, Walker RECEIVING: Atlanta, K.Pitts 5-61. Davis

5-42, Gage 4-64, Patterson 2-1, L.Smith 1-12. Sharpe 1-7. Hurst 1-3. Carolina. Anderson 7-84, DJ.Moore 6-84, Zylstra 4-45, Tremble 2-23, Abdullah 2-17. TACKLES-ASSISTS-SACKS: Atlanta, Jones 5-1-0, Means 4-1-0, Fowler 3-0-1,. Carolina, S.Thompson 9-2-0. INTERCEPTIONS: Atlanta, Walker 1-66,

TAMPA BAY 33, BUFFALO 27, OT 0 3 7 17 0 27 7 17 0 3 6 33 Tampa Bay First Quarter
TB: Fournette 47 run (Succop kick), 8:13. Second Quarter TB: FG Succop 23, 13:36. Buf: FG Bass 21, 9:28. TB: Evans 13pass from Brady (Succop kick), 7:11. **TB:** Brady 1run (Succop kick), 1:29. Third Quarter **Buf:** Allen 18run (Bass kick), 7:29. **Fourth Quarter TB:** FG Succop 24, 11:20. Buf: Knox 15pass from Allen (Bass kick), 9:07. **Buf:** G.Davis 4pass from Allen (Bass kick), 4:53. **Buf:** FG Bass 25, :22.

TB: Perriman 58pass from Brady, 5:31.

First Overtime

TEAM STATS	BUF	TB
First downs	27	26
Total net yards	466	488
Rushes-yards	19-173	29-137
Passing	293	351
Punt returns	2-9	1-10
Kickoff returns	1-29	3-38
Comp-att-int	36-54-1	31-46-0
Sacked-yards lost	3-15	2-12
Punts	6-47.667	5-39.2
Fumbles-lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties-yards	7-65	4-24
Time of possession	32:21	32:08

RUSHING: Buffalo, Allen 12-109, Singletary 4-52, Breida 3-12, Tampa Bay, Fournette 19-113, Brady 7-16, Jones 3-8. **PASSING:** Buffalo, Allen 36-54-1-308. Tampa Bay, Brady 31-46-0-363. **RECEIVING:** Buffalo, Beasley 9-64, Diggs 7-74, Knox 7-60, Singletary 6-37, Davis 5-43, Sanders 1-25, McKenzie 1-5. Tampa Bay, Godwin 10-105, Evans 6-91, Gronkowski 5-62, Fournette 4-19, Johnson 3-17. Brate 2-11. Perriman 1-58. TACKLES-ASSISTS-SACKS: Buffalo. Poyer 7-3-0, Milano 6-3-1Ankou 2-1-1. Tampa Bay, David 8-1-0, White 7-3-1.5, Barrett 2-1-1.5.
INTERCEPTIONS: TB, Sherman 1-0.

DALLAS 27, WASHINGTON 20 Dallas 18 6 3 0 - 27 0 0 8 12 - 20 Washington First Quarter Dal: FG Zuerlein 35, 9:37.

Dal: Cooper 7pass from Prescott (Elliott Dal: Armstrong 37fumble return (Zuerlein kick), :29 **Second Quarter Dal:** FG Zuerlein 38, 4:58.

Dal: FG Zuerlein 37.
Third Quarter Was: Sims 43 pass from Heinicke (Heinicke run), 6:57. **Dal:** FG Zuerlein 29, 1:35. **Fourth Quarter** Was: J.Williams 1run (pass failed), 5:09.
Was: Holcomb 31interception return

(kick failed), 4:13.

TEAM STATS DAL First downs Total net yards Rushes-yards 322 221 35-121 23-100 Passing 201 121 3-5 2-36 Punt returns Kickoff returns Interceptions ret. 1-12 2-34 Comp-att-int Sacked-yards lost 22-39-2 15-34-1 4-10 5-54 6-44.667 7-50.857 Punts 3-0 7-60 Fumbles-lost Penalties-yards Time of possession 34:29

RUSHING: Dallas, Elliott 12-45, Clement 13-43. Lamb 2-15. Prescott 7-15. Hardy 1-3. Washington, Gibson 10-36, Patter son 4-29, Williams 4-16, K.Allen 2-11, Heinicke 3-8.

PASSING: Dallas, Prescott 22-39-2-211. Washington, Heinicke 11-25-1-122, K.Allen 4-9-0-53.

RECEIVING: Dallas, Lamb 7-61, Gallup 5-60, Cooper 5-51, C.Wilson 2-18, Elliott 1-15, Schultz 1-4, Clement 1-2. Washington, Humphries 4-34, Sims 3-69, Carter 2-12, Gibson 2-5, Bates 1-19, Williams 1-19, Patterson 1-9, Seals-Jones 1-8.

THURSDAY GAME:
MINNESOTA 36, PITTSBURGH 28
Pittsburgh 0 0 7 21 - 28
Minnesota 6 17 6 7 - 36 First Quarter
Min: Jefferson 14pass from Cousins

(kick failed), 3:31. Second Quarter Min: FG G.Joseph 38, 14:43. Min: Cook 29run (G.Joseph kick), 9:55. Min: Cook 7run (G.Joseph kick), 2:20. Third Quarter Min: FG G.Joseph 42, 9:36. Min: FG G.Joseph 25, 6:15.
Pit: Harris 3pass from Roethlisberger (Boswell kick), 2:11.

Fourth Quarter
Pit: Harris 1run (Boswell kick), 14:49. **Pit:** Washington 30pass from Roethlisberger (pass failed), 12:11. **Min:** Osborn 62pass from Cousins (G.Joseph kick), 10:51.

Pit: Freiermuth 15pass from Roethlis-berger (D.Johnson pass from Roethlisberger), 4:14. A: 66.718. **TEAM STATS** PIT MIN

First downs	22	22
Total net yards	375	458
Rushes-yards	24-106	36-242
Passing	269	216
Punt returns	1-8	2-31
Kickoff returns	3-62	0-0
Interceptions ret.	2-45	1-18
Comp-att-int	28-40-1	14-31-2
Sacked-yards lost	5-39	0-0
Punts	6-41.0	3-48.667
Fumbles-lost	1-0	0-0
Penalties-yards	11-95	10-92
Time of possession	29:32	30:28

RUSHING: Pit. Harris 20-94, D.Johnson 1-7, Roethlisberger 1-5, Claypool 1-2, Snell 1-(-2). Min, Cook 27-205, Mattison 6-27, Cousins 2-14, Jefferson 1-(-4). **PASSING:** Pit, Roethlisberger 28-40-1-308. Min, Cousins 14-31-2-216. RECEIVING: Pit, Claypool 8-93, McCloud 6-32, D.Johnson 5-76, Washington 4-65, Harris 3-10, Freiermuth 2-32, Min, Jefferson 7-79, Osborn 3-83, Conklin 2-20, Cook 1-17, Herndon 1-17, MISSED FIELD GOALS: Pittsburgh, Boswell 49, Minnesota, G. Joseph 53,

TUESDAY

SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Mostly sunny and

milder than

normal.

WEATHER

MONDAY

NOON

SUNSET

Milford

51/36

■ Greenwich

51/35

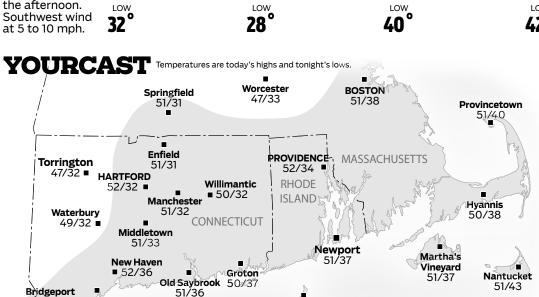
HIGH

Partly sunny in

the morning and

mostly sunny in

SUNRISE



Block Island

HIGH

WEDNESDAY

NOON

Mixed clouds and

sunshine, a bit

cooler.

THURSDAY

 \mathcal{O}

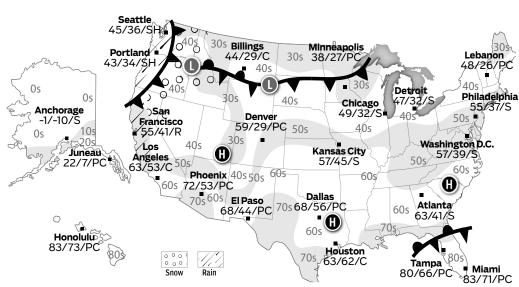
SUNSET

SUNRISE NOON

shower, quite mild.

Mostly cloudy.

chance for a



FRIDAY CONNECTICUT SE WEATHER For the latest weather news SUNRISE NOON throughout your day. HIGH Mostly sunny and milder than normal.

OUTLOOK

LOW **34°**

Wind gusts up to 52 mph in the Greater Hartford area Saturday night and then up to 39 mph on Sunday caused some scattered power outages and tree damage. Temperatures were quite mild over the weekend with a high of 62 degrees Saturday evening and then 52 degrees early Sunday morning. Temperatures will remain above normal into next weekend, but there are signs of colder than normal air arriving either Sunday or Monday, and perhaps some snow could fall Friday night into early Saturday and then on Monday. While it should turn colder, it doesn't look to be extreme.

0.5

0.4

0.2

0.1

Tides

-Gary Lessor

Low

ALMANAC

Precipitation In Inches	Total	Normal
Yesterday (by 7 p.m.)	0.20	0.14
Month to date	1.06	1.68
Total this year	53.05	44.65
Snowfall In Inches		

Yesterday (by 4 p.m.) 0.0 0.3 Total this year 2.1 5.1 Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks

Air Ouality Forecast For Today

Good 25	Low 1	22°
Air	Ultraviolet	Wind
Quality	Index	Chill
Today	Today	Today

Today	Tomorrow
7:09 a.m.	7:10 a.m.
4:20 p.m.	4:20 p.m.
1:31 p.m.	1:53 p.m.
1:43 a.m.	2:45 a.m.
	7:09 a.m. 4:20 p.m. 1:31 p.m.

	Moon Phase		
Full	Last	New	



High

30-day Precipitation History In Inches

courant.com/weather

Boating L.I. Sound W L.I. Sound E B. I. Sound Weather **PCloudy PCloudy PCloudy** Wind W. 10-20 W. 15-20 W. 15-20 Seas 1-3 ft. 2-4 ft. 3-4 ft.

Temperature	High	Low
Sunday	52 at 12:00 a.m	
Normal for date	42	26
Record for date	66 in 1979	-3 in 1988
A vear ago	41	31

Last

1321

15° at 7 p.m.

First Dec 18 Dec 26 Jan 2 Jan 9 Range this year 99 Stockholm AROUND THE WORLD Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above: 32 31 C **Heating Degree Days** Normal Kingstor Season 64 48 PC 54 48 C Lisbon For July 1 - Dec 12 1291 1524

NEW ENGLAND 54 30 PC Nashville 41 29 PC Bangor 43 22 PC **New Orleans** 70 59 Bismarck Burlington 47 32 PC 50 38 SH Boise New York 55 40 Caribou 39 23 C Okla. City Concord Charleston 67 44 PC Omaha 54 29 Montpelier 44 26 PC 53 34 S Orlando 80 63 26 10 PC Cincinnati Mt. Wash. Cleveland 51 33 Pittsburgh Raleigh Indianapolis 51 33 60 36 Woods Hole 51 35 S 61 44 Jacksonville St. Louis

Bangkok Barbados 70 53 C Beijing 57 45 PC Salt Lake City 51 39 NATION Miami Beach 81 74 PC San Antonio 68 59 Berlin 50 31 PC Milwaukee 61 54 C Bermuda 47 33 S San Diego Albuquerque 57 35 PC KEY: S Sunny, C Cloudy, PC Partly Cloudy, R Rain, SH Showers, SN Snow, SF Snow Flurries, T T-storms

San Juan 39 27 PC Budapest 73 53 PC Tucson Buenos Aires 81 64 SH 75 59 C WORLD 82 75 Cancun Amsterdam 48 41 C 57 39 Athens С Dublin 45 44 C 88 72 47 38 PC Edinburgh 84 75 Helsinki 39 21 S Hong Kong 70 63 PC 78 62 C 59 50 SH Istanbul 45 41 SH 71 61 SH Johannesburg 72 59 T

Madrid 55 36 PC Mexico City 73 48 S 46 28 PC Montreal 39 37 C Moscow 28 27 SN 84 73 SH Nassau New Delhi 73 48 PC 50 43 C Paris Prague Rio de Janeiro 95 73 52 36 36 30 Singapore 88 75 SH

London

Sydney 75 59 PC Tel Aviv 75 56 PC 55 39 S 46 32 S Tokyo Toronto Vancouver 41 34 SH Warsaw 30 28 S Weather page produced by WESTERN CONNECTICUT

UNIVERSITY

Weather Center

30-day Temperature History 70 HIGHS 20 LOW **Atmosphere** High Low 30.14 at 7 p.m. 29.54 at 12 a.m.

45° at 12 a.m.

LOCAL SCOREBOARD

Monday's high school schedule **GIRLS BASKETBALL**

CTC: Kaynor Tech at Cheney Tech, 5:30p.m.

ECC: Windham at Woodstock Academy, Others: East Hampton at Fishers Island

(N.Y.), 1:30p.m.; Innovation at Goodwin Tech, 4p.m.; Cromwell at Newtown, 5:30p.m.: HMTCA at Civic Leadership. 6:15p.m.; RHAM at Rockville, 6:45p.m.; East Granby at Gilbert, 7p.m.; Cheshire at Pomperaug, 7p.m.; Hale-Ray at Coventry, 7p.m.; Lyman Hall at Coginchaug, 7p.m.

BOYS HOCKEY

CCC: South Windsor at Northwest Catholic, 3p.m. SCC: East Haven co-op at Cheshire, 3:45p.m.; Lyman Hall at North Haven, Others: Hand at Greenwich, 4:30p.m.

Saturday's late college results

QUINNIPIAC 5, LIU 1 WOMEN'S HOCKEY **TRINITY 5, JOHNSON & WALES 1**

WRESTLING

WILLIAMS 30, TRINITY 18

Sunday's college results

MEN'S BASKETBALL

FAIRFIELD 70. WILLIAM & MARY 47

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

IONA AT SACRED HEART, PPD.

Monday's college schedule MEN'S BASKETBALL

Sacred Heart at Columbia, 8p.m.

Tuesday's college schedule

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Central at Stony Brook, 6:30p.m. St. Francis (Pa.) at Hartford, 7p.m. Monmouth at Yale, 7p.m.

Yale at Drexel, 5p.m. Central at Rutgers, 7p.m.

Wednesday's college schedule MEN'S BASKETBALL

Fairfield at Fairleigh Dickinson, 7p.m. WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Southern at Sacred Heart, 2p.m. AHL Standings Atlantic; GP; W; L; OTL; SOL; PTS; PCT Hartford; 19; 12; 4; 2; 1; 27; .711 Springfield; 22; 14; 6; 2; 0; 30; .682 Providence; 20; 10; 6; 3; 1; 24; .600 Hershey; 19; 9; 7; 2; 1; 21; .553 W-B/Scranton; 20; 9; 8; 1; 2; 21; .525 Charlotte; 23; 11; 10; 2; 0; 24; .522 Bridgeport; 24; 8; 13; 1; 2; 19; .396 Lehigh Valley: 21: 5: 11: 4: 1: 15: .357 North; GP; W; L; OTL; SOL; PTS; PCT

Utica; 20; 17; 1; 2; 0; 36; .900 Rochester; 19; 13; 6; 0: 0: 26: 684 Toronto; 20; 10; 8; 1; 1; 22; .550 Cleveland; 23; 10; 8; 2; 3; 25; .543 Belleville; 22; 11; 11; 0; 0; 22; .500 Syracuse; 20; 7; 10; 2; 1; 17; .425 Central: GP: W: L: OTL: SOL: PTS: PCT Chicago; 22; 16; 4; 1; 1; 34; .773 Manitoba; 23; 15; 7; 1; 0; 31; .674 Rockford; 21; 10; 9; 1; 1; 20; .524 Iowa; 21; 9; 9; 2; 1; 21; .500 Grand Rapids; 22; 9; 10; 2; 1; 21; .477 Texas: 20: 7: 9: 3: 1: 18: .450 Milwaukee; 22; 9; 12; 1; 0; 19; .432 Pacific; GP; W; L; OTL; SOL; PTS; PCT Stockton: 20: 15: 2: 2: 1: 33: .825 Ontario; 19; 13; 5; 0; 1; 27; .711 Henderson; 18; 9; 7; 1; 1; 18; .556 Colorado: 21: 10: 8: 1: 2: 23: .548 Tucson; 18; 9; 8; 1; 0; 19; .548 San Diego; 19; 9; 9; 1; 0; 19; .500 Abbotsford: 19: 8: 8: 2: 1: 19: .500 Bakersfield; 17; 6; 8; 1; 2; 15; .441 San Jose; 19; 7; 11; 1; 0; 15; .395

Saturday's late results HERSHEY 3, W-B/SCRANTON 2 (OT) BRIDGEPORT 5, TORONTO 4 MANITOBA 3, GRAND RAPIDS 2 MILWAUKEE 4, IOWA 2 ROCKFORD 2, HENDERSON 1 LEHIGH VALLEY 4, CLEVELAND 2 PROVIDENCE 3, SPRINGFIELD 0 CHICAGO 4, TEXAS 3 (OT) STOCKTON 5, TUCSON 1 COLORADO 2, BAKERSFIELD 1 SAN DIEGO 3, ONTARIO 1 Sunday's results LEHIGH VALLEY 4, HARTFORD 3 (SO) **BELLEVILLE 3, BRIDGEPORT 2**

PROVIDENCE 5, TORONTO 1 W-B/SCRANTON 6. SPRINGFIELD 0 LAVAL 4, HERSHEY 2 CHICAGO 7, TEXAS 2

Tuesday's schedule Rochester at Charlotte, 7n.m. Hershey at W-B/Scranton, 7p.m. Milwaukee at Iowa, 8p.m. Henderson at Tucson, 7:30p.m. Big East basketball standings MEN'S

Team: CONF: CPCT: OVR: PCT Providence; 0-0; .000; 10-1; .909 Xavier; 0-0; .000; 9-1; .900 DePaul: 0-0: .000: 8-1: .889 Seton Hall; 0-0; .000; 8-1; .889 UConn; 0-0; .000; 9-2; .818 Creighton: 0-0: .000: 8-2: .800 St. John's; 0-0; .000; 8-2; .800 Marquette; 0-0; .000; 8-3; .727 Butler: 0-0: .000: 7-3: .700 Villanova; 0-0; .000; 7-3; .700 Georgetown; 0-0; .000; 5-4; .556

Saturday's late results UCLA 67, MARQUETTE 56 **XAVIER 83. CINCINNATI 63**

Sunday's results ST. JOHN'S 82. COLGATE 64 Big East-Big 12Battle
BAYLOR 57, VILLANOVA 36 Garden State Hardwood Classic **RUTGERS AT SETON HALL, LATE**

Tuesday's schedule DePaul at UIC, 8p.m. Arizona State at Creighton, 8p.m. WOMEN'S

Team; CONF; CPCT; OVR; PCT DePaul: 2-0: 1.000: 8-2: .800 Creighton; 2-0; 1.000; 6-2; .750 Marquette; 2-0; 1.000; 6-2; .750 nr: 1-0: 1.000: 6-2: .750 St. John's; 1-0; 1.000; 5-5; .500 Georgetown; 1-1; .500; 5-4; .556 Providence: 1-1: .500: 6-5: .545 Seton Hall; 0-2; .000; 4-4; .500 Villanova; 0-2; .000; 5-5; .500 Xavier: 0-2: .000: 4-6: .400 Butler; 0-2; .000; 0-10; .000

Barometer

Dew point

Sunday's results VILLANOVA 56, OREGON 52 WAGNER 62, ST. JOHN'S 59 **CREIGHTON 69. ARIZONA STATE 62** CINCINNATI 82, XAVIER 73 ILLINOIS 78, BUTLER 66

Monday's schedule Coppin State at Georgetown, 7p.m. **Hockey East standings**

MEN'S Team; OGP; OVR; CGP; CONF; CPTS UMass Lowell: 16: 10-3-3: 11: 8-2-1: 25 UMass; 15; 9-4-2; 11; 7-2-2; 24 Northeastern; 18; 13-4-1; 11; 7-3-1; 23 Providence: 21: 14-7-0: 11: 6-5-0: 19 Boston College; 16; 8-5-3; 10; 5-3-2; 19 Boston University; 18; 6-9-3; 13; 5-5-3;

UConn; 14; 8-6-0; 9; 5-4-0; 14 Merrimack; 15; 6-9-0; 10; 3-7-0; 12 New Hampshire; 17; 7-9-1; 11; 3-7-1; 9 Vermont; 16; 3-11-2; 10; 2-6-2; 8 Maine; 17; 2-11-4; 11; 1-8-2; 7

Friday's late results UMass Lowell 3, Vermont 0 PROVIDENCE 7, PRINCETON 0 MAINE 1, UNION 1 (OT) **BOSTON UNIVERSITY 3. BOSTON** COLLEGE 3 (OT)

MAINE 4, UNION 3 UMASS LOWELL 2, VERMONT 1 PROVIDENCE 3. PRINCETON 2 U.S. UNDER-18 TEAM 4. BOSTON **UNIVERSITY 3 (EXHIBITION)**

Sunday's result MERRIMACK 8, U.S. UNDER-18 TEAM 2 (EXHIBITION)

Friday's scheduleDartmouth at Merrimack, 7p.m. WOMEN'S

Team; OGP; OVR; CGP; CONF; CPTS Northeastern: 19: 16-2-1: 14: 11-2-1: 35 Boston University; 18; 9-6-3; 15; 8-4-3; UConn: 20: 14-4-2: 13: 8-3-2: 25

Boston College; 18; 10-8-0; 13; 8-5-0; 21 Vermont; 18; 9-7-2; 11; 6-4-1; 19 Providence: 17: 7-5-5: 10: 4-4-2: 16 Maine; 19; 6-12-1; 12; 4-7-1; 16 New Hampshire; 19; 6-11-2; 13; 4-8-1; 15 Merrimack: 20: 5-14-1: 15: 4-10-1: 15 Holy Cross; 17; 3-14-0; 12; 1-11-0; 3

Friday's late results VERMONT 3, BOSTON COLLEGE 1
PENN STATE 3, NEW HAMPSHIRE 0
HOLY CROSS 4, BROWN 2

Saturday's late result LIU 2. MERRIMACK 0 (EXHIBITION) Friday, Dec. 31schedule Vermont at Providence, 1p.m.

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